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FURTHER REPORTAGE ON SELA-ECLA MEETING

Cuba's Llompart on Central America

PA031951 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1448 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Text] Santo Domingo, 3 Aug (EFE) -- Hector Rodriguez Llompart, minister president of the Cuban State Committee for Economic Cooperation, said today that his country is working for a negotiated peace in Central America because it feels that this is the only possible way to resolve the armed conflict there.

Rodriguez Llompart is heading the Cuban delegation to the meeting of personal representatives of Latin American heads of state with SELA and ECLA delegates in Santo Domingo. The Cuban minister president told EFE that his country views a negotiated peace in Central America not only as a solution, but as a vital need, "because no one knows how the conflict would end; everyone knows how it would begin, but it would be difficult to predict how it would end."

In addition, Rodriguez Llompart said that Cuba is participating in the SELA-ECLA meeting with the same spirit it showed during the Quito meeting, and with the same objective and intention -- that of reaching an agreement with the rest of the Latin American countries that are facing common problems. "Cuba's position in regard to the meeting is constructive, like that of the other participating countries," Rodriguez Llompart said. The Cuban minister added that, "We have the hope and firm belief that we will reach agreement and that it will soon be possible to convene the next Latin American conference."

Hurtado Counsels Foreign Withdrawal

PA030030 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 2 Aug 83

[Text] Ecuadorean President Oswaldo Hurtado has stated in Santo Domingo that the presence of U.S. warships off the coast of Central America helps increase conflicts in the region and makes peaceful solutions more difficult. Hurtado said that he advocates the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Central America in order to prevent a war of incalculable consequences. He praised recent remarks by Cuban leader Fidel Castro in regard to Central American problems and stressed that they have been well received.

Hurtado, who is on a 36-hour visit to the Dominican Republic, attended the first session of the conference which SELA and ECLA began in Santo Domingo. In his speech at the opening of the event, Hurtado warned that we will all sink unless Latin America pays its debts, international banks maintain their credits, multilateral organizations change their cooperation schemes, and the United States changes its attitude.

More on Hurtado Address

FL031000 Santo Domingo Radio Earth in English 0200 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Text] Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic -- The president of Ecuador, Oswaldo Hurtado, returned today to his country after attending the opening session of the special Latin American presidential representatives meeting to analyze the document called "Basis for a Latin American Reply to the International Economic Crisis," which was submitted by the Ecuadorean president.

Hurtado was the only foreign chief of state present at the meeting, outside of local President Salvador Jorge Blanco of the Dominican Republic, where the Latin American and Caribbean nations will try to adopt joint efforts to face the international economic crisis.

Before his departure, President Oswaldo Hurtado condemned the armament race of the international powers as one of the reasons that deprived the poor nations of the world of the indispensible economic resources for their development. This is not the best season for Latin America, said President Hurtado, in addressing the Dominican Congress this morning. Powerful nations interfere politically and militarily in the internal affairs of our nations, colonialism continues, violence and terrorism increases every day, and human rights are not being respected. President Hurtado warned that as the economical (?distress) continues in Latin American and Caribbean countries, there will be a generalized social confrontation that will (?attempt) against the institution of democracy.

At the meeting, Chile will back up a later Latin American economical conference, said today Chilean Ambassador to the OAS (Pedro Dasa) at the meeting of the special envoys gathered in Santo Domingo. The Chilean ambassador representing General Augusto Pinochet said that such a meeting would be advisable if adequately prepared for its effectiveness.

Hurtado, Blanco Sign Declaration

FL031020 Santo Domingo Radio Clarin in Spanish 0450 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Excerpts] Ecuadorean President Dr Oswaldo Hurtado Larrea and his delegation left the country at 1815 yesterday evening, thus ending a visit of slightly more than 30 hours, the purpose of which was to attend the ECLA-SELA meeting that opened here on Monday. President Hurtado was seen off at Las Americas International Airport by the president of the republic, Dr Salvador Jorge Blanco, the president's wife, (Cela Mera de Jorge), other senior officials, and the mayor of the National District, Dr Jose Francisco Pena Gomez.

Presidents Blanco and Hurtado signed the Santo Domingo declaration, in which the two heads of state call for a more just international economic order, one which would preserve peace and social justice between developing countries and wealthy industrialized nations.

HAVANA ON FOREIGN MINISTERS' REMARKS IN RIO

PA030028 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 2 Aug 83

[Text] Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda and Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jose Alberto Zambrano, meeting in Rio de Janeiro, have condemned any military action that might hurt the efforts of the Contadora Group to achieve peace in Central America. The two ministers are participating, together with their Brazilian counterpart Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro, in the opening of a course on international law. Zambrano said any action which might be mistakenly interpreted goes against detente and peace.

BRIEFS

OLADE MEETING -- The ninth meeting of the OLADE Ministerial Committee will be held in Managua on 4 August. Nicaraguan Energy Minister Emilio Rappaccioli said during a press conference today that OLADE ministers will analyze the Latin American Energy Cooperation Program, PLACE. [Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0437 GMT 29 Jul 83 PA]

PRESIDENT ORDERS SPEED UP OF YACYRETA TALKS

PY031927 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2200 GMT 2 Aug 83

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 2 Aug (NA) -- Government House tonight reported that President Reynaldo Bignone gave instructions today to speed up the negotiations with Paraguay in order to find a "prompt solution" to the question of initiating the civil engineering works on the Yacyreta binational project.

The announcement was made following a meeting which lasted more than 2 hours and involved, in addition to General Bignone, Foreign Minister Juan Aguirre Lanari, Economy Minister Jorge Wehbe, Public Works and Services Minister Conrado Bauer, and Central Bank President Julio Gonzalez del Solar. The meeting was also attended by Economy Under Secretary Victory Poggi and Foreign Relations Under Secretary Alberto Dumont.

A Casa Rosada communique noted that "during the meeting an analysis was made of the progress which has been achieved in the talks being held on initiating the Yacyreta project," and added that the "president gave instructions for the talks to be intensified in order to reach a prompt solution." The communique also confirmed "the will of the national government to finish drawing up the necessary commitments with the Republic of Paraguay so that the execution of the contracts for the civil engineering works may proceed."

GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS CONTADORA GROUP EFFORTS

FL032313 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2230 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Text] Mexico City, 3 Aug (NOTIMEX) -- The Argentine ambassador to Mexico, Rafael M. Vazquez, has reaffirmed his country's support for the Contadora Group's peace efforts in Central America. He stated that peace can be attained in Central America through the withdrawal of military advisers and all military equipment deployed in the area, in accordance with the proposals made by the Contadora Group countries. Vazquez noted that the work of the Contadora Group would be easier if the ongoing hostilities between some Central American governments would cease.

On another subject, the Argentine minister of communications and transport, Alejandro Barbieri, declared that Argentina's rights over the Malvinas Islands remain unchanged. The official from the government of General Reynaldo Bignone recalled that this position has received the support of Mexico and other countries in the international community. Prior to his departure for Buenos Aires after attending a meeting on telecommunications, Barbieri stressed that the Argentine political parties also support the government's position demanding jurisdiction over the Malvinas Islands.

ENERGY OFFICIAL ON MISSION TO MOSCOW, PRAGUE

PY031724 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1240 GMT 31 Jul 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 31 Jul (TELAM) -- Energy Secretary Alieto Guadagni, who led a mission to Moscow for the seventh meeting of the joint commission, this morning said that his group achieved positive results and that several subjects relating to Argentine activities in the field of energy were studied by the commission.

On his arrival from the Soviet Union, Engineer Guadagni told newsmen waiting for him at Ezeiza International Airport that the Soviets have decided -- and this is clearly stated in the record of the meeting -- to consider Argentina as a grain exporter, while at the same time expressing their intention to grant favorable treatment to that type of export from our country.

Regarding the subjects studied during the meeting, the energy secretary stated that the following were dealt with: the electrification of the Roca railway line, the construction of a gas liquefaction plant in the federal capital, and assistance for gas and petrochemical projects undertaken at the state level.

Various technical sectors which play a role in the economic-technical activities of this country were represented in the mission, along with officials from Mendoza Province.

When referring to the negotiations held between Mendoza and Soviet officials, Guadagni stated that they were highly beneficial to the interests of both parties, since they dealt with barter of Mendoza wine against equipment for trolley buses to improve the infrastructure of the province.

He added that trade between the Soviet Union and Argentina is based on the export of raw materials and the import of equipment for the development of our national infrastructure.

Regarding this subject, he said that an Argentine-Soviet consortium has been formed for building the Piedra del Aguila Hydroelectric Dam. He noted that the work has been distributed in such a way that the Soviets are able to export while our country actively participates in filling the jobs created and by equipping industries for possible exports of technology.

Eng Guadagni concluded by reporting that, in addition to having been in the Soviet Union, he also visited Czechoslovakia to prepare the agenda of energy subjects for the next meeting of the joint commission, which will be held in Buenos Aires next October. The Czechoslovaks were also invited to the inauguration of the next turbine group in Lujan de Cuyo which, as is known, was delivered by that country. He concluded: "We discussed possible links of cooperation, studying the possibility that Argentina and Czechoslovakia may act jointly in the Latin American region for the replacement [reposicion] of equipment, which technically is called exporting to third countries, that is, to operate together vis-a-vis other countries."

EXPANSION OF ARMS MANUFACTURE, EXPORT URGED

PY032154 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 2 Aug 83 p 11

[Text] Division General Horacio Varela Ortiz, director of the army-run armaments enterprise Fabricaciones Militares, claimed yesterday that an expansion of the concern would not only improve the balance of payments but also enhance the "political power and deterrent clout of the nation. Every success contributes to greater technological independence" the general continued, citing the 1982 arms export figure of 56,112,000 dollars (mostly artillery) or 26 percent of domestic production, to back his statements. The general was speaking on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the death of Argentine steel pioneer General Manuel Savio. His audie e included Army Commander-in-Chief General Cristino Nicolaides and Defence Minister Julio Martinez Vivot.

NEW SENATE LEADERSHIP ELECTED, SWORN-IN

PY040237 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Aug 83

[Live Relay from Congress by (Daniel Alarcon Morales)]

[Excerpt] Dear listeners, we want to announce that the swearing-in ceremony of the new members of the Senate leadership started 5 minutes ago.

Julio Garret Allyon, who won the elections against Jaime Arellano Castaneda by a 15-12 vote count, has been sworn in as president of the Senate; Hector Ormachea as 1st vice president; Oscar Zamora, 2nd vice president; Luis Anez Alvarez, first secretary; Heberto Castelledo, second secretary; and (Alfredo Monjes), third secretary.

LABOR LEADERS WARN OF IMMINENT COUP D'ETAT

PY032342 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2130 GMT 3 Aug 83

[By Emilio Crespo]

[Excerpt] La Paz, 3 Aug (EFE) -- Three Bolivian labor leaders have warned that a coup d'etat might be staged in Bolivia, while a fourth leader said that it will no longer be possible to control the people's actions if the government does not mitigate the effects of the economic crisis.

COB [Bolivian Labor Federation] leaders Filemon Escobar, Simon Reyes, and Jose Maria Palacios charged that there are conspiracies against the regime headed by Hernan Siles Zuazo, which came to power 10 months ago. Escobar pointed out that "either a bloody or constitutional" coup will be staged before 6 August, when Bolivian Independence Day will be commemorated and when the congressional recess will end.

Although he gave no details, the word "bloody" seemed to apply to a military coup, while under a "constitutional" coup, Congress would ask or force President Siles Zuazo to resign.

Jose Maria Palacios agreed with Escobar and charged that former Presidents Victor Paz Estenssoro and Hugo Banzer Suarez are planning to stage either a "soft" or a "violent" coup.

Paz Estenssoro's centrist-rightist party and Banzer Suarez's rightist party hold a majority in Congress.

The union leaders made these charges in speeches they delivered in rural towns on Tuesday, during the labor rallies held throughout the country to express support for the democratic process and to demand solutions for the economic crisis.

Workers Protest

PY031923 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Text] The massive demonstration carried out by the country's labor movement yesterday expressed the workers' rejection of hunger and coup intentions, which are currently threatening the Bolivian people. In an evaluation of the demonstration, the Bolivian Labor Federation, COB, justified the protest of the working class demanding from the government of the Democratic and Popular Unity, UDP, immediate and coherent solutions to the many problems affecting the country.

COB Secretary Oscar Sanjines warned the regime of President Siles that union leaders -- not being able to contain the pressures from the workers -- will find themselves incapable of keeping protestors from carrying out unexpected negative actions during future demonstrations.

[Begin Sanjines recording] The sectors that have always taken advantage of the national treasury and government measures must now understand that the majority of the people are the ones who need food. There is no coherent plan. All of the government's plans have failed. The National Committee for Civil Defense is not doing anything. The National Board for Supplies to the People [Junta Nacional de Abastecimiento Popular] does not work. The National Emergency Agricultural Plan does not work either. All of these plans are on paper. The Bolivian people have not seen anything come of these great plans and programs. The COB warns that it will not be able to contain any more protests and demands from the people because they are justified. The government must take care of their needs. [end recording]

This morning during a press conference, Oscar Sanjines emphasized that the government must give an immediate answer to the comanagement plan proposed by the COB to overcome the serious situation affecting the country and to overcome the risks confronting the democratic process. Although a deadline has not been established, it is possible that during a forthcoming meeting the COB Executive Committee will set a deadline for an answer.

[Begin Sanjines recording] The document we released 2 days ago is categorical, and this is why we also demand a categorical answer from the government. We want a clear answer without evasions and concealments. We are waiting for the government's answer.

[Question] Is there a deadline?

[Answer] There is no deadline, but the Executive Committee can certainly schedule one; it has not yet done it. [end recording]

NATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY FACTION JOINS MNR

PY040239 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Aug 83

[Excerpts] The National Revolutionary Rank and File Committee [Comite Nacional Revolucionario de Bases] has officially joined that Nationalist Revolutionary Movement [MNR] headed by former President Victor Paz Estenssoro. The ceremony joining the groups was held this morning at the MNR Political Committee's offices, located in the Nueva America Building on (Indabul) Street.

The National Revolutionary Rank and File Committee is formed by important sectors of labor unions, professionals, teachers, factory workers, peasants, and municipal and public servants. The National Revolutionary Rank and File Committee is headed by Miguel Trigo, Donald Valdivieso, and Hilarion Rojas.

NAVY SEIZES U.S. SHRIMP BOAT FISHING ILLEGALLY

PY031347 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Text] A U.S. fishing boat has been seized by the Brazilian Navy while illegally fishing for shrimp off the coast of Amapa Territory. Since the illegal fishing boat (?refused) to stop its engines when ordered to do so, the Navy boat had to fire several (?warning) shots. [passage indistinct]

ARMY RELEASES APPOINTMENTS, RESHUFFLES PERSONNEL

PY040155 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 3 Aug 83 p 4

[Text] Brasilia -- Army General Heraldo Tavares Alves, chief of the Army Instruction and Research Department, is the new commander of the I Army Corps in Rio de Janeiro. His appointment was signed yesterday by acting President Aureliano Chaves. Aureliano Chaves also authorized General Newton Cruz, chief of the SNI [National Service for Intelligence] since the beginning of Figueiredo's administration, to resume his Army duties. Gen Newton Cruz is the new military commander of the Planalto and the Eleventh Military Region (Federal District, Goias, and Triangulo Mineiro).

According to the long list of appointments that was released by the Army yesterday, which included the reshuffling of generals, major generals, and brigadier generals, General Euclydes Figueiredo, brother of President Figueiredo, has been removed from the Amazon military command and appointed to the ESG [War College]. General Alzir Chaloub has been removed as ESG director and appointed as chief of the Engineering and Communications Department, replacing General Jorge Sa Freire, who was appointed commander of the IV Army Corps. Generals Adhemar da Costa Machado and Mario da Silva O'Reilly Sousa, who were recently promoted, will be installed as military commander of the Amazon and as chief of the Instruction and Research Department, respectively.

The Army appointed Major General Geraldo de Araujo Ferreira Braga, commander of the First Military Region of Rio de Janeiro, as SNI director, replacing Gen Newton Cruz. Gen Geraldo de Araujo Ferreira Braga's appointment was endorsed by President Aureliano Chaves. Major General Athos Cezar Baptista Teixeira has been appointed to the command of the First Military Region, which is the second most important command in Rio de Janeiro. The following are the other appointments: Major General Waldir Eduardo Martins to the command of the Fifth Military Region and of the Fifth Army Division stationed in Curitiba, and Major General Helio Pacheco, who was promoted recently, to the command of the Eighth Military Region stationed in Belem. Major General Manoel Augusto Teixeira, who was also promoted recently, will serve as one of the deputy chiefs of staff of the Army.

The following are the appointments of brigadier generals: Orlando Morgado as director of engineering materiel; Anapio Gomes Filho as commander of the Twelfth Military Region of Manaus; Almerio Jose Ferreira Diniz as commander of divisional artillery of the First Army Division (Rio); Samuel de Tarso Teixeira Primo to the divisional artillery command of the Sixth Army Division (Porto Alegre); Murilo Fernando Alexander as director of inactive and retired personnel;

Manoel de Jesus e Silva as chief of staff of the military command of the Amazon; Luis Paulo Fernandes de Almeida to the command of the Twelfth Infantry Brigade (Cacapava); Amaury Sa Freire Lima to the command of the Third Motorized Infantry Brigade (Goiania); Jose Moretzsohn to the command of the Seventh Motorized Infantry Brigade (Natal); Hermano Lomba Santoro as chief of the Army Technological Center; and Aureliano Pinto de Moura as second deputy health director.

SARAIVA MEETS MEXICAN, VENEZUELAN COUNTERPARTS

PY031826 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 2 Aug 83

[Text] In Rio de Janeiro today, Foreign Minister Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro met with his Mexican and Venezuelan counterparts, Bernardo Sepulveda and Jose Alberto Zambrano Velasco. Minister Saraiva said the meeting was cordial.

[Begin Saraiva Guerreiro recording] We had a friendly talk in which we exchanged information and views on matters of common interest. Obviously, we addressed Latin American issues and relations between our countries. [end recording]

Concerning the task that the Contadora Group has undertaken for the purpose of solving the Central American conflict, Saraiva Guerreiro said that the Brazilian Government will lend its full political support to the efforts being made by those countries.

FIGUEIREDO, CALS DISCUSS PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

PY040031 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 2 Aug 83 p 1

[Text] In Cleveland, Mines and Energy Minister Cesar Cals revealed that President Figueiredo favors a direct election of the nation's president beginning in 1990. Minister Cals talked with President Figueiredo for 40 minutes last Sunday and told him that he will continue to work for the approval of a constitutional amendment allowing the reelection of the nation's president, governors, and mayors.

Cals said that the president is in favor of a provision making the reelection of the president possible, but that he is not interested in his own reelection. Minister Cals added that, unless there is a change in the political situation, either President Figueiredo will be reelected, or a military candidate will be elected, "perhaps Army Minister Walter Pires."

PETROBRAS HEAD RULES OUT PETROLEUM RATIONING

PY031907 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 2 Aug 83 p 19

[Excerpt] Brasilia -- PETROBRAS President Shigeaki Ueki said that the decision to centralize foreign currency operations at the Central Bank has guaranteed the payment of the petroleum bills. "This payment will be made with certainty and determination, as decided by acting President Aureliano Chaves." Ueki ruled out any possibility that the country will ration petroleum and derivates because of payment difficulties.

"In addition to the priority established for the payment of the petroleum bill, today I received orders from the president to maintain the petroleum supply in the whole country at the most adequate level."

According to the PETROBRAS president, the petroleum bill is up to date and suppliers punctually receive payment. There is no shipping problem, and the supply is normal.

In Ueki's opinion, it is normal that the country, being a petroleum importer, should have had a plan for rationing derivates prepared more than 10 years ago. He said: "I believe that all importer countries, such as the United States, Japan, Germany, and Brazil, have a plan, because the main supplier is the Middle East; and that is not a very peaceful region."

OIL REPLACEMENT PROGRAM TERMED SUCCESSFUL

PY031828 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 2 Aug 83

[Text] ELECTROBRAS President General Jose Costa Cavalcanti, who is also the head of the Itaipu Binational Organization, said that the Sao Paulo industrial sector has saved approximately 17,000 barrels of oil a day by using electricity over the last 12 months. Costa Cavalcanti explained that the Mines and Energy Ministry program for the replacement of fuel is being implemented with considerable success. He noted that the ministry's target is to replace 30,000 barrels of oil by-products a day with electricity by the end of 1984.

[Begin Cavalcanti recording] The target of the Mines and Energy Ministry is to replace 30,000 barrels of oil by-products with electricity by the end of 1984. [end recording]

BANCO DO BRASIL EXTENDS CREDIT TO SAVE FIRMS

PY310241 Rio de Janeiro LATIN AMERICA DAILY POST in English 30 Jul 83 p 1

[Text] Brasilia (DAILY POST) -- The Banco do Brasil will free some 35 billion cruceiros in emergency loan money starting Monday to counter mounting credit problems among small and medium-sized businesses, bank president Oswaldo Colin said. The money, to be loaned at the government-imposed ceiling of 6 percent per month, is designed to counter a growing credit crunch caused by the original interest-fixing decree.

"It is quite clear that the current financial situation is not very stable," said Lazaro de Mello Brandao, president of Bradesco, the country's largest private bank, "but what we are really hoping for is some government action which will bring down the high interest rates now being offered on government bonds."

Treasury bond earnings, fluctuating between 10 and 15 percent per month on the open market, are so much higher than the legally permitted 5 or 6 percent loan rates that most banks are investing their money in bonds rather than making new loans, National Bankers Association Vice President Pedro Conde warned this week. The result, said Conde, is that small and medium-sized companies will suffer a massive credit crunch.

The money drought was confirmed yesterday by Sao Paulo Industrial Federation President Luis Eulalio de Bueno Vidigal, who said, "I can't remember when the financial situation was worse. In the last few days we've heard of numerous companies which simply can't pay their employees anymore." But Vidigal added that the Banco do Brasil move "should bring hope to Brazil's businessmen, especially those managing small and medium-sized firms."

In announcing the new credit availability, Colin said "no new emissions of currency are implied." He said the money would come from other sectors of the bank's loan portfolio, including agriculture and exports. The Banco do Brasil president also said he hopes the 35 billion cruzeiros will be enough to aid virtually every Brazilian company in real need of credit.

PROTOCOL OF INTENT ON EXCHANGE WITH PRC SIGNED

PY031727 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 2 Aug 83

[Text] In Brasilia today, Agriculture Minister Amaury Stabile signed a Protocol of Intent with his PRC counterpart, He Kang. Minister Stabile explained the objectives of the protocol:

[Begin Stabile recording] The purpose of this protocol is to promote exchange in the technical, research, and fishery areas, and to develop commercial ties, particularly considering the possibility of selling lumber to the PRC. [end recording] According to the minister, the PRC is a major lumber importer, buying between 6 and 7 million cubic meters annually.

During the ceremony at which the protocol was signed, Minister Stabile received an official invitation to visit the PRC. Minister Stabile accepted the invitation, and said he would make the trip to observe PRC agricultural development.

PRC To Increase Imports

PY031932 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 30 Jul 83 p 18

[Text] PRC Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, and Fishery Minister [as published] He Kang yesterday reported that the PRC intends to increase Brazilian imports of soybeans, sugar, timber, oranges, and other staples produced by Brazil. These imports may reach a total of $200 million this year.

Brazilian Agriculture Ministry Secretary General Jose Ubirajara Timm added that in addition to increasing trade, the two countries may expand bilateral cooperation in the technical and scientific fields, since the PRC is the world's largest consumer of foodstuffs and Brazil currently has the greatest potential to produce them. The trade balance between the two countries was negative for Brazil last year by $225.9 million.

DEAL WITH IRAQ, EGYPT FOR TUCANO PLANE REPORTED

PY031939 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 30 Jul 83 p 20

[Text] Embraer's [Brazilian Aeronautics Company] chairman has remarked that "should this week's good news have the expected effects, and should similar arrangements come up again, then Embraer can send the crisis to hell."

Ozires Silva refused to reveal the reasons for such optimism, but company sources gave two good reasons for the chairman's joy: On Thursday, a large sales contract for Tucano training airplanes was signed with Iraq, which means $100 million in income. Two days before, following a year of bargaining, a temporary contract was signed with Egypt, to go into effect within 60 days for the joint manufacture of Tucano airplanes.

PRODEN CALLS FOR GOVERNMENT ALTERNATIVE, PROTEST

PY040229 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0030 GMT 31 Jul 83

[Excerpts] Santiago, 30 Jul (EFE) -- Former Senator Jorge Lavandero, president of the "National Development Project" (PRODEN), today announced the proposal for a "democratic alternative" in government and called for a national protest on 12 August.

Lavandero, who was feted by some 500 people who protested his arrest in the "case of the pamphlets," asserted that the current government "represents chaos" and that "an outlet should be sought in democracy and order." The former senator presented this new alternative in his capacity as president of "PRODEN," an organization that includes the most important forces and politicians of the opposition, with the exception of the communists. He stated that this outlet should be "a modern regime, which will be understanding, and in which democracy will be the system, peace and social justice the objective, and man's dignity and work the priority issues."

Lavandero, who was accompanied on the platform by Gabriel Valdes, former foreign minister of Chile and president of the Christian Democratic Party, by union leader Rodolfo Seguel, by the Venezuelan ambassador to Chile, and by the charge d'affairs of the Italian Embassy, announced that he will soon disclose the full text of the proposal.

The "PRODEN" concluded by officially announcing the next national protest for 12 August, a call that has been endorsed by several hundreds of people.

CTC REFUSES TO HOLD TALKS WITH GOVERNMENT

PY031757 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1516 GMT 2 Aug 83

[Text] Santiago, 2 Aug (EFE) -- The Confederation of Copper Workers (CTC) today announced that it will not hold any talks with the government until its internal organizational situation, threatened by government pressure which seeks to remove its leaders, has become normal.

In a letter to Labor Minister Patricio Mardones, the top leaders of the CTC, which has about 23,000 members and is headed by Rodolfo Seguel, announced its intention not to participate in the talks which have already begun in an attempt to improve the labor legislation now in force. Mardones decided to begin a round of consultations in order to determine what modifications might be made to the so-called labor plan following protests from various sectors. The labor system under attack has been in force for over 2 years.

The CTC stated that it will not participate until the prosecution proceedings against some of its leaders, initiated by the government on the grounds they called the first two national protests, are withdrawn. The CTC added that it proposed long ago "the complete repeal of the current labor legislation."

In turn, two CTC labor leaders, Ricardo Opazo and Carlos Valdivia, today charged that the state-run Copper Corporation, which manages the four largest copper mines, tried to evict their families from the homes which the company owns, based on an annulment of contracts which has been reported to the court, but failed because of the refusal and firmness of the families which were in the homes of the intended victims at the time.

INTERNATIONALIZATION OF ANTARCTIC OPPOSED

PY021851 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0927 GMT 2 Aug 83

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 2 Aug (EFE) -- Fernando Zegers, adviser at the Foreign Ministry for maritime and Antarctic affairs, has expressed Chile's opposition to any plans to internationalize the Antarctic.

Ambassador Zegers noted last Monday that "there is no need to hold a debate on this issue." He said this after noting that Malaysia is planning to raise the issue at the next meeting of the UN General Assembly. The diplomat added: "The Antarctic is not the common patrimony of all humanity, in the sense that some are using the term. The protection of claims to sovereignty, such as those made by Chile, is within the Antarctic Treaty."

Fernando Zegers also noted that "the Antarctic Treaty provides for a system through which the Antarctic has been placed at the benefit of humanity. All members of the United Nations can adhere to this system, which has worked perfectly at all times."

Zegers noted that the treaty does not have an expiration date but that in 1991, 30 years after its enactment, the parties involved may suggest amendments or request a renewal. He said that "the Antarctic does not belong to anyone. But man has been active on this continent for over a century. Therefore, it cannot be compared to the seabed or air-space since it has its own legal system."

As for the Bonn meeting, he noted that the signatory countries of the Antarctic Treaty had studied a system for the exploitation of Antarctic mineral resources, but that "for the time being, the exploitation of Antarctic mineral resources is very difficult in view of the special characteristics of the area in question." He added that in view of this, those countries that have made claims to the area, including Chile, which has the right to veto any decision on the Antarctic, will draft a plan for the use of mineral reserves. This plan may be put into operation "when we have the necessary technology at our disposal, but this will take much time, development, and money."

Zegers explained that the issue of exploiting Antarctic mineral resources was discussed last year in New Zealand and that, in principle, Chile supported the idea that the Antarctic should be used only for ecological objectives, "but there was a good deal of international pressure in view of the oil crisis. An agreement was therefore drafted on the regulation of natural resources exploitation, but the consulting bodies of the Antarctic Treaty are also studying regulations for mineral resources."

The Chilean Foreign Ministry adviser stated that oil and all sorts of hard minerals are believed to be on the continental shelf.

According to Fernando Zegers, there is difficulty in arriving at an agreement regarding the interests of the different parties included in the Antarctic Treaty, over both development and policy matters. But he said that in the future negotiations must take place between those who have sovereignty claims and those that either recognize or do not recognize these claims."

PRESIDENT APPOINTS NEW CABINET MINISTERS 3 AUG

PA040022 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2319 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Text] Bogota, 3 Aug, (DPA) -- President Belisario Betancur restructured his cabinet today, 3 days before completing his last year in office. He confirmed six of his closest followers and appointed seven new ministers.

President Betancur confirmed Foreign Minister Lloreda Caicedo in his post. Lloreda Caicedo has been actively guiding Colombian foreign policy, serving as part of the Contadora Group, which is seeking a peaceful solution in Central America.

Two of the former cabinet ministers, government (Interior) and education, were transferred to other positions in President Betancur's government. Rodrigo Escobar Navia, who was interior minister until yesterday, is now education minister; and Jaime Arias Ramirez, formerly in education, is now public health minister.

The new cabinet, announced this afternoon by the Narino Presidential Palace, is as follows:

Minister of Government (Interior): Alfonso Gomez Gomez, former governor of the Department of Santander, former ambassador to the USSR, and currently ambassador to the PRC; he is a Liberal.

Minister of Agriculture: Gustavo Castro Guerrero. (Liberal)

Minister of Education: Rodrigo Escobar Naiva. (Liberal)

Minister of Public Health: Jaime Arias Ramirez. (Conservative)

Minister of Economic Development: Rodrigo Marin. (Conservative)

Minister of Mines and Energy: Carlos Martinez. (Confirmed in post)(Conservative)

Minister of Foreign Affairs: Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo. (Confirmed in post) (Liberal)

Minister of National Defense: General Fernando Landazabal Reyes. (Confirmed in post)

Minister of Labor: Guillermo Alberto Gonzalez. (Liberal)

Minister of Finance: Edgar Gutierrez Castro. (Confirmed in post) (Liberal)

Minister of Public Works: Hernan Beltz Peralta. (Conservative)

Minister of Communications: Bernando Ramirez. (Confirmed in post) (Conservative)

Mayor of Bogota: Augusto Ramirez Ocampo. (Confirmed in post) (Conservative)

Director of National Planning: Jorge Ospina, former director of the Economic and Social Council, replacing Hernan Beltz Peralta, who has been appointed Public Works Minister.

[Paris AFP in Spanish at 2335 GMT on 3 August adds that "the minister of justice is Liberal Rodrigo Lara Bonilla."]

CHEYSSON MEETS WITH BETANCUR AT NARINO PALACE

PA031935 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Text] Bogota -- President Belisario Betancur is at this moment receiving a protocol visit by French Minister of External Relations Claude Cheysson in his office in Narino Place. The French minister arrived in our country yesterday on an official visit that will last until tomorrow. He will hold talks with national government officials in an effort to strengthen economic, trade, and cultural relations between the two countries. Cheysson will hold a news conference at the Foreign Ministry at 1700 to announce the results of his talks with Colombian authorities. He will leave for Cuba tomorrow.

Mitterrand To Visit

PA032303 Paris AFP in Spanish 2131 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Text] Bogota, 3 Aug (AFP) -- French President Francois Mitterrand will visit Colombia. The date of the visit will be established by the two governments later on, French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson, who is on an official visit to Colombia, announced here today. Cheysson, who met with President Betancur for 1 hour and 20 minutes, announced at Narino Palace that Mitterrand had accepted President Belisario Betancur's invitation.

BETANCUR PLEASED WITH EFFORTS TOWARD PEACE

PA031955 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Text] Bogota -- President Belisario Betancur has reported that contacts and efforts to achieve peace in Central America are advancing satisfactorily and that positive results are expected.

Admitting that he could not elaborate, the Colombian president said: I am very pleased with the way the contacts to achieve peace in Central America and the Caribbean are advancing, because yesterday Ambassador Richard Stone left for Managua, Nicaragua, and met with the top leaders of the Sandinist Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua. The talks were very positive. This is as much as I can say.

When asked about where these efforts would lead, Betancur answered: The search for peace.

Stone, U.S. President Ronald Reagan's special ambassador, has held a number of talks with Central American governments and with those of the Contadora Group, which is engaged in efforts to achieve peace in the area. He held an initial meeting with Salvadoran guerrilla leader Rafael Zamora last week.

'POSITIVE RESULTS' SEEN IN ZONES OF VIOLENCE

PA032050 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Text] Bogota -- This morning members of the Peace Commission, headed by John Agudelo Rios and Government Minister Rodrigo Escobar Navia, and President Belisario Betancur discussed the positive results of actions implemented by the government in zones of violence. The reports are encouraging, and we are under the impression that the peace process is progressing each day. If we have the resources to implement programs in areas that have suffered from the violence, peace will become a reality no one will ignore, Agudelo Rios noted as he left the meeting.

He said that he was pleased with the analysis made and stated that he hopes peace will be achieved very soon. He added that this study included three key aspects: the evaluation of tasks that can be carried out immediately, tasks that need planning, and long-term tasks. As to tasks that are now being carried out, he said that specific programs, such as electrification, are being implemented in the mid-Magdalena region. Projects costing 20 million pesos in Puerto Boyaca will be inaugurated this week.

[Begin recording] [Agudelo Rios] The meeting was held to analyze what we are doing, establishing a difference between tasks that can be carried out right away, those that need planning, and those which must, by their nature, be implemented over the long term. Our main interest is to speed up the process and do what the government promised.

[Unidentified reporter] Were there any discouraging aspects?

[Agudelo Rios] No, there weren't any in today's meeting, because what has prevented the rehabilitation of the areas affected by the violence was the lack of economic resources. However, we have overcome this problem and now have the resources which allow us to carry out some projects that had been planned very well.

[Unidentified reporter] Would you say violence has decreased?

[Agudelo Rios] Not necessarily. The causes for violence have decreased. The people understand that they now have more protection for their property, that there are more hopes for the implementation of programs, and that their needs are being satisfied in a way which we could describe as exemplary when compared with other periods in Colombian history. [end recording]

PRC TRADE MISSION TO ARRIVE ON OFFICIAL VISIT

PA030303 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 1 Aug 83 p 13

[From the "Econotas" column by Lucy Diaz Plata]

[Text] An official mission from the PRC, headed by Jia Shi, vice minister of foreign economic relations and trade, will arrive in our country today on a visit that will last until Friday. They will meet with Colombian foreign trade authorities and other government institutions to review economic and trade relations.

The two countries will analyze the possibility of implementing economic, scientific, and technical cooperation in various economic sectors, especially in hydroelectricity, forestry, textile industry, international transportation, as well as in the credit and financial fields.

In addition, subject to congressional approval of the Colombia-PRC trade agreement signed in July 1981, arrangements will be made for the first session of the mixed commission mentioned in this agreement. Tomorrow, the Chinese mission will meet with Gustavo Tobon, director of the Colombian Foreign Trade Institute.

BRIEFS

SPANISH, SWISS AMBASSADORS -- The new ambassadors of Spain and Switzerland, Manuel Garcia Miranda and Daniel Dayer, have presented their credentials to President Belisario Betancur. [Summary] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 29 Jul 83 p 1A PA]

HURTADO ACCEPTS DEFENSE MINISTER'S RESIGNATION

PA031647 Paris AFP in Spanish 1626 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Text] Quito, 3 Aug (AFP) -- Ecuadorean President Oswaldo Hurtado today accepted the resignation of Defense Minister General Jorge Maldonado Mino, retired, the press office of the Quito government house has announced.

According to unofficial military sources, the new defense minister, who will take office at noon today, will be Army General Jorge Arciniegas. Arciniegas is the second Army officer promoted to this high rank by the current democratic regime. The first was Marco Subia, the defense minister who accompanied the late President Jaime Roldos when he and members of his entourage were killed in an aircraft accident on 24 May 1981.

Arciniegas Named Defense Minister

PA031900 Paris AFP in Spanish 1827 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Excerpts] Quito, 3 Aug (AFP) -- Ecuadorean President Oswaldo Hurtado has appointed by decree his new defense minister and new commanding general of the Army following the resignation of the incumbent, General Jorge Maldonado Mino, retired.

Hurtado appointed Army General Jorge Arciniegas Salazar to fill the Defense Ministry post as an active member of the Armed Forces, while Division General Garibaldo Mino was named the new commanding general of the Army, the post vacated by Arciniegas.

After taking office, the new minister announced that he will follow in the footsteps of his predecessor, offered his unqualified support to the democratic process followed by Ecuador since August 1979, and pledged his respect for the institutions.

BRIEFS

NEW INSPECTOR GENERAL -- President Oswaldo Hurtado has appointed (Carlos Ramos) the nation's inspector general. Ramos replaces (Teodoro Pena Carrasco), who will become representative of the executive branch on the National Housing Board [Junta Nacional de la Vivienda]. [Summary] [Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 30 Jul 83 PA]

RADICAL LIBERAL PARTY CANDIDATES -- The National Assembly of the Radical Liberal Party [PLR] yesterday nominated Leon Febres Cordero and Blasco Pena Herrera PLR presidential and vice presidential candidates for the 1984 elections. The slate is supported by the National Reconstruction Front [Frente de Reconstruccion Nacional]. [Summary] [Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 30 Jul 83 PA]

REPORTS FROM FRG ON REPRESSION DENIED

PY040302 Asuncion Red Privada de Teledifusora Paraguaya Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Text] The under secretary of information and culture, Anibal Fernandez, today denied a report from the FRG on repressive practices. The leading official of the Information and Culture Under Secretariat described as groundless and puzzling the queer report from (Askigran) on alleged and false repressions in Paraguay.

The information under secretary added that the only element of truth in the report is the part dealing with the court-ordered arrest of Aldo Zucolillo, director of the newspaper ABC COLOR, for contempt of court.

Anibal Fernandez told the news agency EFE that as far as the arrest of physicians and lawyers who defended workers and students is concerned, the author of the report is the only one who is aware of such things, because the news is totally unfounded on the national level.

Information and Culture Under Secretary Anibal Fernandez told EFE in Asuncion that national public opinion can attest to the fact that the alleged tortures and arbitrary arrests are a fabrication of the feverish minds of those people who are against the government and particularly against the peace that exists in the country.

PERMISSION REQUIRED TO LEAVE THROUGH FALCON

PY301849 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 30 Jul 83 p 10

[Excerpt] The Public Relations Department of the Asuncion police reported yesterday that foreign tourists who want to leave the country through Puerto Falcon must first ask for permission at the third police precinct, while Paraguayan citizens must request permission at the first police precinct.

A circular notice was distributed to the press yesterday, the text of which reads as follows:

"The Public Relations Department of the Asuncion police wishes to inform the people of an order from higher authorities regarding procedures that must be followed by persons, whether foreign or Paraguayan, who want to leave the country through Puerto Falcon.

"The following requirements are hereby in effect: Those foreign tourists who are in the country must ask for the appropriate permission at the third police precinct located on Chile Street between Manduvira and Ibanez del Campo Streets. Paraguayan citizens must request permission at the first police precinct.

"The hours for these procedures are from 0700 to 1200, and from 1500 to 1800, including Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays."

According to this order, police permission is mandatory in order to leave the country through Puerto Falcon-Clorinda. The number of permits that will be issued to Paraguayan citizens is limited to 100 a day.

PRESIDENT SEES FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT IN TERRORISM

PY032219 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1855 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Text] Lima, 3 Aug (EFE) -- Peruvian President Fernando Belaunde today charged that "multinational indoctrinating companies" [transnacionales ideologicas] are supporting the terrorist actions undertaken by the "Shining Path" movement, and that they have created a "new kind of war."

During an exclusive interview granted to EFE, Belaunde said that those companies are seeking to bring "the conflict between the superpowers" to Peru, giving rise to what he termed "a new kind of war."

Belaunde, who avoided any specific reference to the countries these multinational companies belong to, remarked that "terrorists do not make use of traditional Peruvian symbols and methods." The Maoist "Shining Path" movement banner is the hammer and sickle.

Upon the conclusion of the third year of his second constitutional term, Belaunde told EFE he maintains close ties with the Armed Forces; however, he noted, "there is always the danger of a coup, because there are always ambitious people."

President Belaunde, overthrown by the military in 1968, returned to power in July 1980 after 46 percent of the voters backed him in May of that year.

"This is a sound government and the military support it enjoys is not the result of personal relations but of the fact that the military leadership is convinced that democracy is what the country needs," Belaunde told EFE.

Referring to the terrorism problem, one of the most serious issues facing his regime, Belaunde again denied charges that human rights have been violated during the antisubversive war.

"We are struggling against people who kill, who pull out the eyes of peasants, and who cut out their tongues in front of their relatives and neighbors. It is these criminals who are demanding respect for human rights," Belaunde said.

President Belaunde also voiced his concern over possible arbitrary actions in the antiterrorist war, but warned that "experienced and cruel criminals cannot be fought with roses."

"Terrorists do not want elections, they want totalitarianism and chaos; but violence has never succeeded in Peru," the president told EFE during the interview held at Government House.

Terrorism has prompted the military occupation of a large Andean region and the declaration of a nation-wide state of emergency, and it has caused some 2,000 casualties, including civilians, policemen, and guerrillas.

Belaunde is confident that Peruvian democracy will grow stronger and that the scheduled 1985 presidential elections will be held. The Constitution stipulates that he will not be able to run for president in those elections.

The Peruvian president expressed satisfaction over the democratization process taking place in the Southern Cone, remarking that "this is not just a personal opinion but a real fact: the time for democracy has arrived."

Belaunde voiced his government's support of the diplomatic efforts of the so-called "Contadora Group" (Mexico, Panama, Colombia, and Venezuela), aimed at bringing about a negotiated solution to the Central American conflict.

40 TERRORISTS, 2 MARINES DIE IN AYACUCHO

PY040250 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0048 GMT 4 Aug 83

[Text] Lima, 3 Aug (EFE) -- Police today reported that 40 "Shining Path" guerrillas and two marines died in one of the bloodiest clashes of recent months in the Andean Department of Ayacucho.

The clash, in which four marines and an undetermined number of terrorists were wounded, took place in an area known as Pujas, in the San Jose de Secce District, 88 km from the city of Ayacucho, the department's capital, which is located 575 km southeast of Lima.

The reports indicate that the clash, which lasted about an hour, began when some 100 Shining Path guerrillas ambushed a patrol of approximately 40 men made up of 25 marines and Civil Guards.

The forces of order, under the command of police Second Lieutenant Victor Timana, repelled the attack and forced the terrorists to flee.

When the fighting ended, 40 terrorists and 2 marines were found dead and 4 marines and many guerrillas were found wounded. Many wounded terrorists were taken by the guerrillas who fled.

Police report that during the clash, which took place on Tuesday, guerrilla leaders known as "Comrade Estela" and "Comrade Saul" died, and that six submachine guns, six shotguns, two FAL rifles, grenades, and dynamite were seized.

It was reported that three patrols left Ayacucho to help capture the guerrillas who fled.

It was also reported that Humberto Guevara, the judge of Tambo Province, in Ayacucho, denied today's press reports that Uchuraccay Lieutenant Governor Fortunato Gavilan died. Guevara ruled out Gavilan as the man recently found murdered by the guerrillas. He noted the murdered man is younger and that, contrary to newspaper reports, the threatening sign left by the guerrillas who killed him made no mention of the lieutenant governor's name.

The judge announced that an autopsy on the body will be performed in the next few hours. Gavilan has been charged with instigating the slaying of eight journalists on 26 January 1983 in Uchuraccay.

Other Terrorist Attacks Reported

FL031310 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Text] An attack by the Shining Path armed group has caused the partial destruction of the Peruvian Investigative Police [PIP] headquarters in Nazca in the southern department of Ica. A police report said several persons have been arrested and charged with taking part in the action. More arrests were also reported in the attack on the main offices of the ruling Popular Action Party and on another PIP headquarters in Lima. The attacks, which occurred last month, resulted in 4 deaths and over 30 wounded.

ALLEGED SPIES DETAINED AT SOUTHERN BORDER

PY031743 Paris AFP in Spanish 2218 GMT 2 Aug 83

[Text] Lima, 2 Aug (AFP) -- It has been learned from sources in the state security forces that two alleged spies of Ecuadorean nationality and a Chilean woman have been detained at the southern border of Peru. The source said the three persons were taking photographs of security zones where it is clearly indicated that the use of cameras is prohibited.

Despite requests from newsmen, the names of the alleged spies were not given, but it was made clear that they are not drug traffickers or terrorists. Chilean and Ecuadorean consular officials have taken action to safeguard the security of their fellow citizens, and it was learned that they believe they are careless tourists who did not heed the written orders set up at the border.

HAVANA CITES 'REPRESSION,' RISING INFLATION

PA020035 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Aug 83

[Text] Peruvian President Fernando Belaunde Terry has confirmed plans for a new phase of repression against clandestine armed groups that have been operating in the country over the past 3 years. Belaunde Terry said that the National Defense Council, which is made up of military command members and top-ranking government officials, will meet in the near future. Belaunde Terry proposed the reinstatement of the death penalty, which requires a constitutional amendment that could take as much as a year to be adopted.

Carlos Rodriguez Pastor, Peruvian economy and finance minister, said the Peruvian rate of inflation will reach 100 percent at the end of this year. The progovernment magazine CARETAS said that the inflation rate will reach 63 percent by the end of July. It said the increase is due to the unpopularity of President Belaunde Terry, who according to a poll has little more than 20 percent of the people's support.

MINISTER DENIES PRESENCE OF SOMOZA ASSASSIN

PY040311 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0245 GMT 2 Aug 83

[Text] Lima, 1 Aug (EFE) -- The Peruvian interior minister today went on record that the former member of the Popular Revolutionary Army (ERP) of Argentina who last week recounted for publication his participation in the killing of Anastasio Somoza is not in Peru.

Minister Luis Percovich cited police reports to back his assertion that "there is no indication whatsoever" that Enrique Gurriaran Merlo is in Peru or that he is cooperating with the Maoist Shining Path organization.

The Argentine magazine "SIETE DIAS" last week published an interview held "somewhere in Peru" with Enrique Gurriaran Merlo, a former ERP leader, who recounted the details of the successful attempt on the life of the former Nicaraguan dictator carried out in Asuncion, Paraguay.

The magazine said that Gurriaran, after leaving Argentina, fought in the Sandinists' ranks in Nicaragua, and is at present in the ranks of the Shining Path terrorist group.

SOVIET FISHING SHIP UNLOADING AT EL CALLAO

PY031729 Lima Radio Union in Spanish 1130 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Summary from poor reception] Fisheries Minister Fortunato Quesada has announced that the fish markets in El Callao will receive 700,000 kg of frozen fish this weekend. The cargo has been brought in by the high-seas Soviet fishing ship (Marshal Koyumenco), which is one of the five Soviet ships operating in the region.

BELAUNDE VOWS TO ERADICATE DRUG TRAFFICKING

PY040137 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2200 GMT 30 Jul 83

[Text] Lima, 30 Jul (EFE) -- Peruvian President Fernando Belaunde has said that not a single drug trafficker will be left in Peru and charged that traffickers have financed guerrilla activities in his country over the last 3 years.

The Peruvian president reported the arrest of 100 foreigners, "who came here to corrupt our country and to give money to youths, who are at times hungry and who commit crimes only because they are hungry."

The president announced the National Council of Defense will meet next Monday to discuss current terrorist activities and adopt the most appropriate measures.

The struggle against drug trafficking will also be reviewed "because not a single drug trafficker must be left in Peru, not a single one," the president stressed.

The Peruvian press today reports the president's televised remarks from Government House following yesterday's military parade. No other local or foreign reporters were allowed to attend the press conference [as received].

The thesis of the connection between drug traffickers and terrorism, which had been put forth long ago and which has been recently reiterated by several congressmen, has thus been given new attention.

Congressmen have reported that drug traffickers give arms to terrorists in return for drugs, and that arms can be illegally smuggled from Boliva, Colombia, or Brazil. However, the charges do not have absolute government confirmation.

The president said that terrorism is also financed by smuggling and frequent bank holdups.

For his part, Interior Minister Luis Percovich said that police and Armed Forces anti-subversive operations will intensify in response to the recent escalation of terrorist activities.

The minister added that the 60-day extension of the nationwide state of emergency will not restrict political activity, now that the electoral campaign for the scheduled November 1983 municipal elections is about to begin.

Police confirmed today that a woman, identified as "Comrade Rocio," led the 11 July attack on the Lima headquarters of Popular Action, the ruling party, in which 2 people died and 30 were injured. The woman led the assault dressed as a schoolgirl.

Police also charged that terrorists held up a customs house office and a jewel shop in the Lima port of El Callao, yielding 700 million soles (some $400,000) that will allegedly be used to finance terrorism.

ARMED FORCES READY TO RESUME POLITICAL DIALOGUE

PY031736 Montevideo Radio EL ESPECTADOR Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Excerpts] Naval Commander Vice Admiral Rodolfo Invidio has said in Montevideo that he expects a resumption of the interrupted dialogue with the political parties as a step in Uruguay's return to democracy.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] What commentary can you make on the current political situation in the country?

[Invidio] Gentlemen, I am a member of the government and I believe that the government was very explicit yesterday regarding the decree regulating the future activities of political parties. It is to be hoped, as that decree says very clearly, that we may, in the not too distant future, resume the famous dialogue between the members of the political parties and the Armed Forces, the dialogue which, as you know, has entered a stage of recess because of a unilateral step taken by the political parties. The Armed Forces wish and are ready, as they have repeatedly stated, both in their most recent decree and in the communique released on 16 July, to continue the dialogue with the political parties. This is so because our people, of whom we, the members of the Armed Forces, form a part, wish that the dialogue should continue. Thank you very much; that will be all.

[Report] Thank you. [end recording]

COLORADO PARTY LEADER CLAIMS SECRETARY KIDNAPPED

Armed Forces Deny Accusation

PY022230 Paris AFP in Spanish 0016 GMT 2 Aug 83

[Text] Montevideo, 1 Aug (AFP) -- Julio Sanguinetti, leader of the Colorado Party opposition faction -- the majority within that party -- tonight repeated his charge that a party political secretary was kidnapped, hooded, and questioned by the military. Sanguinetti thus answered a recent Armed Forces denial on the matter.

Speaking at a press conference, Sanguinetti contended that during the investigation into the case of Professor Glenda Rondan, no effort was made to identify those responsible; rather, the authorities sought to dismiss the charge that he leveled a few days ago through a weekly published by his faction.

The political leader said that the reasons his charge was dismissed were very weak and described as subjective the final conclusion that it was fanciful. He stressed that Rondan, the victim, was made out to be the guilty one.

General Julio Cesar Rapela, head of the Armed Forces Political Affairs Commission and commander of the 1st Army Division, denied the charge in the morning, claiming that it was the result of an imaginative mind with a leaning toward the dramatic.

According to Rondan, who has been a Colorado Party member for 20 years. she was kidnapped by persons in a military vehicle, then hooded and questioned about Sanguinetti's and her own activities within the party. Rondan said she was not mistreated.

Charges Filed Against Secretary

PY031912 Paris AFP in Spanish 2001 GMT 2 Aug 83

[Excerpts] Montevideo, 2 Aug (AFP) -- It has been officially announced that the Army Command today requested that court proceedings be initiated against the political secretary of Julio Maria Sanguinetti, leader of the Colorado Party opposition faction, for reporting a crime which did not actually take place. The secretary, Glenda Rondan de Romeo, a professor of literature, reported a few days ago through Sanguinetti that she had been kidnapped by men in uniform, taken away hooded in a military vehicle, and then interrogated about political activities before being released.

The commander in chief of the Army, Lieutenant General Boscan Hontou, this afternoon confirmed General Rapela's statement refuting Sanguinetti's charges. Hontou said that Sanguinetti had spoken out before becoming familiar with the details. Hontou fully rejected Sanguinetti's accusations that the investigation was not aimed at identifying those responsible but at dismissing the charges. Hontou also criticized Sanguinetti for making statements without being familiar with the thorough investigation that had been carried out and for refusing the opportunity given him to review the statements, recordings, and declarations made by 38 neighbors of the literature professor. In conclusion, the army commander indicated that the Army Command has decided to submit the results of the investigation to the Defense Ministry and has requested the intervention of the court, because Glenda Rondan de Romeo has presumably fabricated reports of a crime.

MORE ON DEBT REFINANCING, PAYMENT SCHEDULE

PY032143 Paris AFP in Spanish 2323 GMT 30 Jul 83

[All figures as received]

[Text] Montevideo, 30 Jul (AFP) -- A communique released by Citibank, which was published here today, noted that Uruguay has refinanced $629 million of the public sector's foreign debt and has obtained a loan for another $240 million. Citibank headed the committee of private banks which negotiated the agreement on behalf of almost 80 creditor banks. The rescheduling agreement did not include $123 million for commercial debts.

It was also stated that the new loan for $240 million will be used by the Uruguayan authorities as they see fit. The first portion of this loan will be available in early August.

The total $869 million will be repaid in 17 quarterly installments over 6 years, with a 2-year grace period. The interest rate on this loan is (?2.25 percent) above the LIBOR [London interbank offered rate] or (?2.125 percent) over the U.S. prime rate.

The official documents which sealed the agreement were signed in New York by Uruguayan Economy Minister Walter Lusiardo Aznarez and the president of the Central Bank, Jose Maria Luppo.

The rescheduled $629 million may be broken down as follows: $480 million, which represents 90 percent of the short-term debt of the Uruguayan public sector, excluding commercial debts, as well as 90 percent of the medium-term debts which mature in 1983 and 1984 and which amount to $45 million and $124 million respectively. The remaining 10 percent will be paid.

DE LA ESPRIELLA, FORMER PRESIDENT ARIAS MEET

PA031741 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 3 Aug 83 p 5

[From Guillermo Rodolfo Valdes' column "Comments and Exclusive Reports"]

[Text] President Ricardo de la Espriella and former President Arnulfo Arias M. held a new meeting yesterday after 1700.

The meeting was apparently held at the residence of the Indian Chief of Arco Iris [Arias' nickname in political circles]. The two men discussed current topics.

They spoke at length about De la Espriella's first year in government, the democratization process led by De la Espriella, the country's economic woes, the peace efforts, Cancun, and so forth.

Arias congratulated De la Espriella on his performance during the difficult year his administration has just completed.

However, perhaps one of the most interesting statements made during the conversation was Arias' criticism of the Christian Democratic Party. He said: "There are too many crises in the country to go around creating new ones."

HAVANA CITES RODRIGUEZ, 'DESTABILIZATION' PLOT

PA020002 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 1 Aug 83

[Text] General Ruben Dario Paredes, chief of the Panamanian National Guard, has revealed that the Panamanian Government has broken up a destabilization plan which involved opposition political leaders, in complicity with that country's attorney general, Rafael Rodriguez, who has left for the United States. Parades said that in their desperation to seize power these politicians wanted to create confusion and unrest in the country to subvert order, disrupt national stability, and interrupt the democratization process the Panamanian Government is following.

At the conclusion of ceremonies marking the second anniversary of the death of Panamanian leader Omar Torrijos, Paredes announced that Colonel Manuel Antonio Noriega, the current National Guard staff chief, has been promoted to brigadier general. Noriega is to replace General Paredes as chief of Panama's National Guard. Paredes has announced he will retire within 12 days.

It is generally believed that Paredes will run for president in the 1984 elections.

COLUMNIST CALLS FOR DISMISSAL OF PAREDES, OTHERS

PA032348 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 3 Aug 83 p 10-A

[Article by Jose Domingo Torres: "The Offended Homeland Demands Justice"]

[Text] The National Guard has established a precedent with a lowly act that deserves the repudiation of all Panamanians: it coerced Attorney General Rafael Rodriguez and forced him to resign under threat of death.

This sad act of weakness by the National Guard merits the immediate dismissal of General Ruben Dario Paredes, Lieutenant Colonel Roberto Diaz Herrera, and all civilians who were involved in this coercive action. They should all be tried by competent courts for the crime against the fatherland of violating the constitution, abusing their authority, obstructing investigation into the shameful social security scandal and threatening the attorney general with death.

Paredes and Diaz Herrera cannot guarantee the Panamanians and the National Guard that they will indeed fulfill their pledges to the homeland, because their personal interests come before those of the nation.

Military officers attempted a coup d'etat in Spain some months ago. As a result, they were rejected by all Spaniards, particularly by their own military comrades, who handed them over for trial by the courts. This is a great example from Spain, the mother homeland, for all democracies that respect human rights and their own constitutions. This is a great example to armed forces that have a patriotic, professional attitude, which should be emulated not only by Panama's National Guard but by all Latin American armed forces.

The offense committed against the person of the attorney general is not offense against citizen Rafael Rodriguez, but an offense against the most sacred interests of the Panamanian nation. No excuse will be good enough to justify this uncouth attitude on the part of Panama's military citizens who were involved in this incident, especially one who has presidential aspirations.

The righteousness demonstrated by Attorney General Rafael Rodriguez when he refused to remain silent and to end his investigations under pressure demonstrates that he has the highest level of honesty and courage, one that no Panamanian in the country's history has ever reached. He chose the loneliness of exile rather than submit to the low interests of those who have offended, stepped on, and vomitted on Panama's dignity.

We Panamanians cannot silence our voices of protest and repudiation in the face of the humiliating situation that is confronting the country today as a result of the incidents that have occurred, which are undermining the democratic inclination of all citizens, the current constitutional order, and the country's most sacred interests.

I ask myself: With what moral authority can President Ricardo De la Espriella, his governing team, and General Paredes talk about peace in the region? How can they claim to promote democracy when by their acts of government they create unrest and violence and thoughtlessly break the constitutional order that the Panamanians recently approved in a referendum? It is offensive to the homeland and to the distinguished Contadora Group members for our homeland's soil to be used to promote peace and tranquillity in neighboring countries while Panamanian leaders themselves violate the constitution and threaten to murder the highest official in the attorney general's office.

This vulgar, irresponsible act of violence involving some National Guard members is the result of General Paredes' tenure as an officer. This grotesque act of violence is evidence of the increase in institutionalized corruption that has taken place in the last 15 years of military government.

The cynicism and insolence of this incident, which has gravely damaged the homeland's dignity, and which was received by the national and international communities with complete repulsion, merit the immediate dismissal of Gen Ruben Dario Paredes, Lt Col Roberto Diaz Herrera, and all those who took part in this Dantesque spectacle of repression.

Although this incident enjoys the guilty silence of some communications media and people, we Panamanians are aware, and the Contadora Group members and the international community, particularly the Human Rights Commission, should be aware, of the threat that looms over Panama's budding democracy and the imminence of the wave of violence and repression that the military could unleash against the same people whom they swore to defend. Their oath was forgotten as soon as it was taken. Instead, it became an oath to subdue, repress, and coerce the people.

BRIEFS

CHINESE LEGISLATORS END VISIT -- Following a 3-day visit, 17 legislators from the Republic of China have sent a message to the Panamanian People in which they express gratitude for the opportunity to strengthen friendly relations between the two countries, which share the same respect for liberty and democracy. [Summary] [Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 28 Jul 83 PA] A mission of 18 [as published] legislators from the Republic of China visited Vice President Jorge Illueca, in an effort to strengthen friendship and cooperation ties between the two countries. The delegation, headed by Henry Heng Hsu, thanked the Panamanian Government for the advantages it has offered China through the cooperation and exchange programs. [Summary] [Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 31 Jul 83 p B-1 PA]

EL SALVADOR

MAGANA CONFIRMS NO POWER SHARING THROUGH DIALOGUE

PA031533 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 2 Aug 83 pp 3, 41

[Excerpt] The Salvadoran Government maintains its position: "We will not hold a dialogue to share power. The people, in free elections, will have the last word," President Alvaro Magana has reaffirmed through a presidential spokesman.

It was announced elsewhere that the Peace Commission has sufficient powers to discuss alternatives that would allow the rebels to join the electoral process and participate in the upcoming elections.

The Peace Commission, created by the Apaneca agreement, will be in charge of handling the dialogue.

Despite the fact that there has not yet been an official communique from the presidential palace or the political or peace committees about the negotiations and contacts already made by special U.S. Ambassador Richard Stone, it is expected that any dialogue with the extremists could be conducted through the Peace Commission, composed of Francisco Quinones, Dr Jose Guillermo Trabaninos, and Monsignor Marco Rene Revelo.

RIGHTS COMMISSION ACCLAIMS STONE-ZAMORA TALK

PA030440 San Salvador La Voz Panamericana in Spanish 1900 GMT 2 Aug 83

[Salvadoran Human Rights Commission "Before the National Conscience" program: "Stone Accepts Dialogue"]

[Excerpts] News of the Sunday meeting between the special envoy of the Reagan administration for Central America, Richard Stone, and Salvadoran political leader Ruben Zamora was received here with great satisfaction. The meeting was held at the presidential palace in Bogota, Colombia.

Stone and Zamora represent the two parties involved in the Central American conflict -- Richard Stone acting as spokesman of the United States, supporter of the Salvadoran regime, which considers its national security interests threatened by the conflict in the area, and Ruben Zamora representing the Salvadoran opposition groups.

For several months different political leaders of neighboring countries had tried on several occasions to arrange a meeting between either Zamora or Guillermo Ungo and Stone, but something always prevented such a meeting at the last minute. Finally, the Colombian capital served as the starting point for the long-awaited advance toward the end of the Salvadoran conflict.

It is to be expected that Salvadorans should feel particularly pleased that the United States has agreed to a dialogue with the leaders of the insurgent movement, because everyone knows that the United States will actually decide the fate of El Salvador.

It is also true that within Salvadoran society there will be some political sectors and forces that will oppose the dialogue and negotiation efforts. Those sectors have never been interested in helping end the Salvadoran conflict, as they are not concerned about the sorrow and grief of the Salvadoran families because they have all the commodities and, in fact, fear losing their class privileges through any negotiations.

We expect the usual communiques in the national press, signed by the private enterprise organizations, speaking about patriotism, the nation's defense, and many empty words designed to prevent the advance of the efforts toward peace that are now underway.

But it does not matter. We Salvadorans know these groups perfectly well. Even though they may oppose dialogue and negotiation, the rest of the population will ignore them. The majority of the poor and humble people of El Salvador see in this meeting between the United States and the opposition forces the first beam of light in the dark tunnel through which we have been stumbling. It is a weak but hopeful light that is beginning to illuminate a future of peace, progress, and national reconciliation desired by the whole Salvadoran family.

After many varied efforts, we greet with renewed optimism the attainment of political dialogue between the country that actually directs the national life and activity, the United States itself, and that sector of Salvadorans who through their actions have earned the right to be taken into consideration, and without whom El Salvador could never return to normalcy. We refer to the FDR-FMLN.

The Salvadoran Human Rights Commission, CDHES, as defender of human rights, expects that all parties directly involved in the Salvadoran conflict will make every possible effort to achieve as soon as possible the end of hostilities, the conclusion of all armed confrontations, and the return to a legal status in which the people's human rights may be truly respected -- a state that will put an end to torture, unjustified imprisonment, disappearances, and, in particular, the thousands of political murders.

DEMOCRATIC ACTION LEADER FAVORS DIALOGUE

PA031622 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 2 Aug 83 pp 2, 11

[Text] "The dialogue with the extremists will be positive so long as it does not jeopardize the nation's social and economic stability, the foundations of the Constitution, or the reorganization of state entities such as the Armed Forces," Dr Fortin Magana, the secretary general of Democratic Action, has said.

"Apart from this, we think dialogue is a positive approach. We believe that communication must be established with all representative forces in order to find a political solution to the crisis affecting Central America as soon as possible."

"Democratic Action favors dialogue. We do not avoid dialogue; we have always considered it possible," Fortin Magana added.

"That is," the political leader noted, "as long as it does not affect the nation's social and economic stability, or the foundations of the Constitution resulting from the free elections of 28 March 1982. None of these elements must be abandoned through dialogue, least of all the reorganization of the state entities, such as the Armed Forces. These elements must not be jeopardized in a dialogue."

"The dialogue with the FDR must be intended to incorporate its members in the political electoral movement and, in that respect, we must wait for positive results of special envoy Richard Stone's actions," the Democratic Action leader commented.

Dr Rene Fortin Magana considers the holding of elections in February or March 1984 a good move, because they should under no circumstances be rushed or strained, particularly since the constitution has not yet been approved.

Besides, there is no electoral registry to guarantee the elections or other necessary measures to ensure their integrity.

"To speak of elections in February or March is more reasonable, and Democratic Action concurs with this," Fortin Magana concluded.

1,800 REBELS ATTACK MORAZAN COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

PA031428 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Text] San Salvador -- Army officers have reported that more than 1,800 Salvadoran leftist rebels attacked a government communications center in Morazan Department, in the country's northeast. The newspaper EL MUNDO yesterday reported that approximately 1,800 to 2,000 guerrillas launched a ferocious attack on a strategic military post located on Cacaguatique Hill in Morazan Department.

ARMY SPOKESMEN REPORT 19 REBEL CASUALTIES

PA031850 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1608 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Text] San Salvador, 3 Aug (LATIN-REUTER) -- The Salvadoran Army killed 12 rebels and recaptured a city in the northeastern department of Morazan, military spokesmen reported today. Spokesmen said that the Salvadoran troops had launched a new offensive in the department and had taken Cacaguatique. No additional information was disclosed.

Yesterday, Army spokesmen said that seven leftist guerrillas had been killed in an ambush set up by the Army in the central Salvadoran department of San Vicente.

COPREFA REPORTS 'FIERCE COMBAT' IN CHALATENANGO

PA031941 Paris AFP in Spanish 1436 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Text] San Salvador, 3 Aug (AFP) -- The Salvadoran Armed Forces today confirmed that government and guerrilla troops had in the past few hours engaged in fierce combat in the northern part of Chalatenango Department on the Honduran border.

The heaviest fighting occurred Tuesday in the area north of El Paraiso, headquarters of the 4th Infantry Brigade, and in the rural zones of Dulce Nombre de Maria and San Francisco Morazan, but the hostilities continued today, with government troops advancing in an operation in the region.

The Armed Forces Press Committee (COPREFA) reported that in El Comun, a municipality of San Francisco Morazan, some 80 km north of the capital, a guerrilla camp which had a training field, shooting range, and a clinic was dismantled after six hours of fighting.

These actions were carried out by the 4th Brigade and the Chalatenango Military Detachment, whose troops also recovered a large quantity of powdered milk and cereals that, according to the official report, had been stolen by the guerrillas a few months ago from the Supply Regulation Institute (IRA) in the capital of the department.

Finally, COPREFA announced that the Salvadoran guerrillas "are retreating toward Honduras" in the face of the Army's advance. The Army is providing protection to several border townships from which the rebels have been evicted in the past 2 weeks.

HAVANA ON ARCHBISHOPRIC LEGAL OFFICE COMMUNIQUE

PA030027 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 2 Aug 83

[Text] According to a communique issued by the Salvadoran Archbishopric's Legal Aid Office in San Jose, the repressive forces of the Alvaro Magana regime killed at least 2,823 people during the first half of 1983. This humanitarian institution, created in 1975, harshly criticized U.S. President Ronald Reagan who, despite knowledge of these crimes, certified to the U.S. Congress that constant improvement is being made with regard to respect for human rights in El Salvador.

VENCEREMOS CALLS STONE ANOTHER 'U.S. SOLDIER'

PA040358 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 4 Aug 83

[Station commentary: "Richard Stone, Another Soldier of Intervention"]

[Text] One does not need glasses to see the obvious. The U.S. aircraft carriers, the U.S. warships, the U.S. warplanes, the U.S. soldiers, the U.S. military advisers are the most eloquent evidence of the character, content, and intentions of U.S. plans for El Salvador and all of Central America.

The U.S. plan is militarily oriented. The U.S. plan calls for war. Intervention is the only U.S. plan for Central America. All the trimmings and all the political and diplomatic maneuverings are nothing but the same plan of intervention, with the necessary propaganda mascarade to confuse the U.S. Congress and public opinion. But in truth, we Central Americans, who have the U.S. ships, planes, and soldiers on our own territory, are not deceived by envoys, ambassadors, or Richard Stone-style emissaries, with their false pacifistic travels. Richard Stone is neither ambassador nor mediator, and he is not seeking peace. Richard Stone is one more soldier for the Reagan administration. Richard Stone is another soldier of U.S. intervention, and as such he is no different from the hundreds of U.S. military advisers who, with aircraft carriers or plans like CONARA [National Commission for Reconstruction of Affected Areas] or electoral farces, fulfill their mission, which is to soften the ground in preparation for the Yankee intervention in Central America.

If we have talked with Richard Stone, it is because we are willing to try all alternatives, including talks with our enemies or with the representatives of our enemies, to bring peace to Central America, and to secure justice for our peoples.

Richard Stone is not a diplomat. He is a U.S. soldier, disguised as an ambassador. He is one more piece in Reagan's only plan, which is the plan for intervention. But they do not intimidate us with their arrogant military maneuvers in Central America. The U.S. soldiers, the U.S. planes, the U.S. intervention that is damned to crash against the most powerful human wall in Central America. We are not alone. We are not unarmed; Bolivar, Farabundo, Sandino, and Marti are alongside the Central American patriots and we swear that we will fulfill with honor our historic duty of turning our fatherland into U.S. imperialism's grave.

VENCEREMOS REPORTS HELICOPTER HIT IN CACAGUATIQUE

PA031627 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Text] On 31 July the Morazan Battalion stationed in San Francisco Gotera advanced toward Cacaguatique village, reaching as far as San Carlos Farm.

On 1 August units of the Morazan Battalion clashed with our heroic militias. The heavy fighting resulted in one dead and eight wounded. The fighting took place near (Loma de la Cueva). After several hours of combat, our militias managed to occupy other positions, while the enemy reached the antenna position.

We recall that months ago the FMLN had dislodged the Army from this strategic position, destroying the military communications center they had installed in these heights in Morazan Department.

The genocidal Air Force continuously bombed various sectors on 1 August [passage indistinct] Morazan Battalion moves from the antenna position and heads southeast of Cacaguatique. The enemy's attempts to reach the (Orroyoso) Hill encountered strong resistance from our heroic militias, who practically halted the enemy's movements. At (Orroyoso) Hill our militias damaged a helicopter gunship supporting the enemy.

Also at (Orroyoso) Hill, our militias inflicted 14 casualties on the enemy -- 3 dead and 11 wounded. The Air Force and artillery had been using heavy fire the day before.

This report was sent by our militia combatants at Cacaguatique Hill, in Morazan Department. In only 2 days of fighting these militias have damaged an Air Force helicopter [word indistinct] and have inflicted 23 casualties on the Army -- 4 dead and 19 wounded. Forward, companero militiamen! Continue dealing blows against the enemy!

GUATEMALA

29 POTENTIAL POLITICAL PARTIES REGISTERED

PA031756 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 0400 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Text] As of yesterday, 2 August, 29 civic committees had been registered for the formation of political parties. According to government estimates, however, this figure is expected to increase after the political opening, given the Guatemalan's interest in participating in national politics within the new democratic pluralist framework.

Of the 29 groups, only 7 had participated in party politics in former regimes, while the remaining 22 are new groups that hope to take advantage of the political liberties accorded by the national government, so that this country's future government will truly represent the people's will.

GOVERNMENT QUESTIONS BELIZE COURT DEATH SENTENCE

PA040215 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0300 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Excerpt] The Guatemalan Government has voiced doubt that two Guatemalan citizens who were tried in Belize were given a fair trial; in fact, it suspects that their sentence was influenced by political factors, official spokesman Rafael Escobar Arguello said today:

[Begin recording] The Foreign Ministry is dispatching a letter to the British Government through the Swiss Embassy, which is in charge of British affairs in Guatemala. In the letter, our government asks the British authorities to order a thorough investigation into the case of two Guatemalan citizens who were sentenced to death by hanging, because the Guatemalan Government suspects that the sentence was the result of political, rather than legal, motives. [end recording]

HAVANA NOTES DISCOVERY OF MURDER VICTIMS

PA011848 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 31 Jul 83

[Text] According to reports from Guatemala City, four more people have been murdered in various parts of Guatemala in the last few hours.

The bodies of 2 men were found floating in the Samala River in Retalhulea Department, raising the number of bodies found there to 10. All of the bodies showed signs of torture and bore bullet wounds.

HONDURAS

SUAZO CORDOVA ADDRESSES MESSAGE TO NATION

PA040303 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 0211 GMT 4 Aug 83

[Message addressed to the people of Honduras by President Roberto Suazo Cordova; place not given -- live or recorded]

[Text] Dear compatriots:

I take advantage of this occasion to send you fraternal greetings and to thank you for the concern and messages of solidarity that both I and my family have received as a result of my health problems, which are so common in human beings and which, thanks to our Lord, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Virgin Mary, have been overcome. Filled with optimism, this permits me to announce to the people of Honduras and to those who have been with me spiritually that their worries are at an end. I will soon resume the responsibilities that the people have delegated to me, always with the firm desire to continue to work for the progress of the nation which, with the help of God and of good Hondurans, we hope to keep under the rule of democracy.

I offer my special recognition and gratitude to Brigadier General Gustavo Adolfo Alvarez Martinez, commander of the armed forces, for the concern he showed and for remaining by my side, and to the other members of the armed forces institution. My thanks to Doctors Arturo Alvarez Martinez, Rodolfo Reyes Berlioz, Rodolfo Emilio Berlioz Bendana, Leonel Ramirez Medina, Luis Tirso Bendana, and Sudora Berlioz de Ramirez, all members of the medical team in Comayagua, a former capital of Honduras, who have facilitated my prompt recovery. My recognition also goes to the members of my government cabinet.

People of Honduras, we remain firm in our commitment to advance our beloved homeland. All your worries and doubts can end. I am with you, to serve you as long as our beloved Lord, Jesus Christ, permits me, which I hope will be for many more years.

Greeting, people of Honduras, and may God guard our nation, protecting it, with your help, from violence, subversion, and totalitarianism. Greetings, people of Honduras.

[Panama City ACAN in Spanish at 0218 GMT on 4 August reports that "Suazo Cordova was allowed to get out of bed today and to meet with relatives and friends, attend a photograph session, and record a message that was broadcast over radio and television tonight."]

COMMUNIQUE REJECTS ASSERTION ON COUP ATTEMPT

PA040312 Paris AFP in Spanish 0232 GMT 4 Aug 83

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 3 Aug (AFP) -- An official communique issued today stated categorically that Honduran Armed Forces Chief General Gustavo Alvarez Martinez and the armed forces "are completely removed from the political parties' internal activities."

The communique was issued in reply to a statement made by Deputy Roberto Echenique, a member of the major opposition National Party, who asserted that General Alvarez and certain politicians are trying to take control of that party in order to "create the necessary conditions for a coup d'etat." The communique pointed out that "the armed forces are dedicated exclusively to faithful compliance with their constitutional duties."

"In this sense, we reiterate our full support of the democratic government, freely elected by the Honduran people, presided over by Roberto Suazo Cordova. We also express our absolute support of the current constitutional system," the communique stressed.

Similarly, Congress Secretary Pablo Urrutia -- leader of the nationalist sector called Unity and Change, which Echenique accused of being linked to the military sector for the purpose of staging a coup -- termed the deputy's statement "completely false" and praised the armed forces' "commitment to democracy."

DEFENSE SECRETARY DENIES JOINT MANEUVERS SUSPENDED

PA040117 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2012 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 3 Aug (ACAN-EFE) -- Honduran Defense Secretary Colonel Amilcar Castillo Suazo today declared that the joint maneuvers with the United States have not been suspended.

The official said that the maneuvers are still in the planning stage, and that neither the date for their initiation nor their duration have yet been determined.

He pointed out that the military operations "will probably involve naval and air maneuvers more than infantry maneuvers." He said that the sites of the maneuvers will be the Atlantic coast and the Gulf of Fonseca, in the Pacific Ocean, whose waters are shared by Honduras, Nicaragua, and El Salvador.

Castillo Suazo chose not to estimate the number of troops involved in the U.S.-Honduran maneuvers, but he did confirm that the size of the U.S. fleet has been increased.

He said that most of the men "will be provided by the United States; Honduras will have minimal participation."

He also confirmed that Honduras will incur no expense throughout the maneuvers, which, according to sources close to the Pentagon, may last 6 months.

The maneuvers have been named "Ahuas Tara II," which in Miskito means "Big Pine II." Last February, Honduras and the United States staged joint maneuvers in the Miskito area of Honduras, close to the Nicaraguan border, which were called "Ahuas Tara."

The Honduran defense secretary confirmed that the joint maneuvers with the United States "do not imply any preparation for war, and certainly not for a confrontation with Nicaragua."

He explained that the Honduran Armed Forces have increased their level of defense preparedness, but said that they have never considered a war with Nicaragua or with any other neighboring country.

He asked reporters to calm the Honduran people "and to avoid a war psychosis."

He also declared that there have been no incidents reported recently between Honduran and Nicaraguan troops, which face each other along the two countries' more than 300-km-long border.

HAVANA CITES 'U.S. OFFICER' ON MILITARY EXERCISES

FL031250 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Text] The United States is rapidly building two more military air bases in Honduras, a country that has been converted into a launching pad for attacks against Nicaragua and the Salvadoran revolutionary movement. This was revealed by a senior U.S. military officer to the Mexican news agency, NOTIMEX.

The U.S. officer, whose name was not revealed, said U.S.-Honduran maneuvers will begin this week. During the course of the exercise, U.S. officers and soldiers will train the Hondurans on infantry and tank warfare tactics, he added.

The bulk of Yankee forces scheduled to participate in the maneuvers will be in Honduras by September this year. The exercises include a landing by U.S. Marines and Honduran soldiers. Simultaneous with these exercises, the United States has deployed three war fleets off the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of Nicaragua.

MINISTER PREDICTS 'NORMALIZED' BORDER SITUATION

PA030415 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 2 Aug 83 p 12

[Excerpts] Honduran Defense Minister Colonel Amilcar Castillo Suazo has told LA TRIBUNA that Honduras, the other Central American countries, and the United States will respect a Sandinist government in Nicaragua, if this were the people's will.

Fewer Border Incidents

Colonel Castillo Suazo also said that "incidents on the Honduran-Nicaraguan border have decreased, and we believe the situation will be normalized again. This is positive, because those who have been evacuated will be able to return to their normal activities."

The People Will Be Informed About the Maneuvers

Regarding the joint U.S.-Honduran military maneuvers, Castillo Suazo said: "These actions are being planned. The Honduran people can rest assured that they will be informed about this and also about the areas where the exercises will be held."

The minister emphasized that the maneuvers "must not be taken as a provocation. They are an exercise to evaluate the ability of our armed forces."

NICARAGUA

BORGE CALLS U.S. MANEUVERS 'STRATEGIC MISTAKE'

PA031825 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Text] Tomas Borge, interior minister and commander of the revolution, told local and foreign reporters gathering at the Cesar Augusto Silva Center yesterday that the warship maneuvers off Nicaraguan coasts are a strategic mistake. Borge said that the international repudiation the U.S. Government has experienced will prevent it from stepping up the aggression initiated with these naval maneuvers.

In the face of the Reagan administration's plans against the Nicaraguan revolution and people, Borge noted, the revolutionary government is trying to promote political negotiations. We are placing our hopes on the Contadora Group and advocating that Central America solve its problems through political negotiation. However, we are also willing to defend our land militarily, despite the magnitude of the aggression that may victimize us.

STONE VISIT INDICATION SANDINISTS WANT DIALOGUE

PA031736 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Text] Cesar Delgadillo of the Patriotic Front of the Revolution [FPR] has stated that it is now up tothe U.S. Government to say whether or not it is willing to participate in a dialogue. He noted that the recent visit by U.S. special envoy Richard Stone to Nicaragua shows that the Sandinist government insists on peace and dialogue.

Delgadillo, who is also a leader of the Popular Social Christian Party, which is an FPR [Patriotic Front of the Revolution] member, made this statement in regard to Stone's visit to Central America.

He added that the six-point proposal made on 19 July by the FSLN, through Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, is conclusive. Delgadillo said that it is now up to the U.S. Government to respond and state if it wants a dialogue.

SAUL ARANA TO MEET WITH DEMOCRATS IN WASHINGTON

PA040154 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Text] Saul Arana, director of the Foreign Ministry's U.S. Department, left today for Washington, where he will meet with members of the U.S. Democratic Party. Arana will also make an evaluation of the current situation in the United States insofar as Nicaragua is concerned, and will assess some aspects of the UN General Assembly's agenda.

A Foreign Ministry delegation is accompanying Arana.

USSR FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL CONCLUDES VISIT

Havana Cites Political Support

FL040100 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Text] In response to a question about what attitude the Soviet Union would assume in the event of a direct aggression against Nicaragua, the secretary general of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, Yuriy Fokin, said: We will support Nicaragua politically in every way.

Fokin gave a press conference in Managua at the conclusion of an official visit to Nicaragua. He reiterated the need for political solutions to problems affecting the Central American region.

He said: We hope that reason prevails in the event of a possible U.S. attack. Fokin also said that the Soviet Union supports the Contadora Group's measures and believes that all political means should be used to settle the situation in Central America.

Ends Meetings, Departs

PA032027 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Text] Yuriy Fokin, secretary general of the USSR Foreign Ministry, today returned to his country after condemning the U.S. militarist policy in the central American area and supporting the Contadora Group's efforts.

Fokin was in Nicaragua for 2 days and met with Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction; Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto; and international relations officials at the Foreign Ministry. The representatives of the two governments viewed the topics to be discussed at the UN General Assembly in October.

Before departing from the Augusto Cesar Sandino airport, the USSR official expressed his appreciation for the invitation extended to him by the Nicaraguan Government and asserted that his government will support Nicaragua, politically or otherwise, should a direct aggression occur.

OFFICIAL VIEWS TRADE PROBLEMS WITH HONDURAS

PA031914 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Text] Trade is an instrument of peace to seek a solution to the economic crisis affecting Central American nations, Orlando Solorzano, director of the Foreign Trade Ministry's Office for the Promotion of Exports, stated, referring to the bilateral problem between Honduras and Nicaragua.

Solorzano reiterated the government's willingness to hold talks with Honduran economic authorities in order to find negotiable terms for the $15-million debt Nicaragua owes Honduras. He said that Nicaragua had planned to state these views to Honduran economic authorities in a meeting that was postponed by the Honduran Government, which denied entry to a Nicaraguan delegation.

Solorzano noted that a decrease in the trade balance between the two countries is due to their productive structures, indicating that a balanced development policy is needed to improve trade relations.

So far this year Nicaragua has exported more than $500,000 to Honduras and has imported $2.4 million from that country.

PARTY LEADERS MEET WITH VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT

PA311407 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2003 GMT 30 Jul 83

[Text] Managua, 30 Jul (ACAN-EFE) -- Nicaraguan opposition leaders have gone to Caracas, Venezuela at the invitation of President Luis Herrera Campins, spokesmen for the leaders' political groups have reported.

These leaders are from the Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board [CDN], which is made up of three political parties, two labor unions, and the private sector. The delegation is comprised of Eduardo Rivas Gasteazoro, president of the CDN; Adan Fletes, president of the Social Christian Party; Enrique Bolanos, president of the Higher Council of Private Enterprise; Erick Ramirez and Carlos Huembes, members of the CDN Board of Directors; and Andres Zuniga, president of the confederation of Nicaraguan Professional Associations.

Nicaraguan immigration authorities would not allow Luis Rivas Leiva, president of the PSC, to leave the country. Rivas Leiva told ACAN-EFE that immigration officials told him he could not leave the country. He stated that "such attitudes diminish the credibility of the political opening announced by the FSLN."

COORDINATING BOARD SENDS MESSAGE TO CONTADORA

PA010005 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 30 Jul 83

[Text] The Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board, which represents Nicaraguan rightist political parties and labor organizations, announced that it sent a message to the foreign ministers of the Contadora Group, meeting over the weekend in Panama City. In it, the board expresses its hope for a peaceful solution to the situation in Central America and exhorts the Contadora foreign ministers to find a civic and political solution to the Central American problem.

MISKITO PRISONERS RELEASED TO RIGHTS GROUP

Rights Group Members Comment

PA030003 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 2135 GMT 2 Aug 83

[Text] We are gathered at the Cesar Augusto Silva International Convention Center in Managua, where an extraordinary event will be held. The government will release to the National Commission for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights [CNPPDH], some 30 Miskito Indians who had been involved in counterrevolutionary activities. Among them are some prisoners who were involved in the "Red Christmas" counterrevolutionary action against our people. These persons will be released to the members of the CNPPDH present at this event. They will be handed over by Interior Minister Commander of the Revolution Tomas Borge Martinez.

Present as members of the CNPPDH are: Sixto Ulloa, (Benjamin Cortez), (Gilberto Aguirre), and Bishop (John Wilson), as well as Ramiro Lacayo, Horacio Fernandez, Companera Zulema Baltodano and Reverend Amando Lopez.

They will receive the prisoners from Commander of the Revolution Tomas Borge, member of the FSLN National Directorate. At this moment, there are 46 prisoners, but this number will be confirmed later.

The event to be held here will be a solemn one, as is the release, and will demonstrate to the world the nature of the Sandinist peoples revolution, which once again demonstrates its generosity.

We are now going to interview CNPPDH member Sixto Ulloa: [Announcer] Good afternoon, Sixto. What is the importance to the revolution and people of Nicaragua of this handing over of prisoners involved in counterrevolutionary actions?

[Ulloa] As members of the CNPPDH, we believe that this action is a generous act by a revolution only 4 years old. We believe this culminates all the efforts made by the commission to publicize and stress human rights. At this moment, the CNPPDH is very much aware that human rights are respected in Nicaragua and that the government has responded to a proposal of the commission for these Miskito brothers to be released to their families and once again join society.

[Announcer] We understand that there are 46 prisoners. Is this figure correct?

[Ulloa] Exactly 46 prisoners. However, we have proposed another plan for the release of more Miskito brothers, including a group of ministers and women.

[Announcer] Were these prisoners, who will be released thanks to the CNPPDH's efforts, tried and sentenced by our revolutionary courts?

[Ulloa] There are various cases which were debated by CNPPDH lawyers. The Third Criminal Court issued its proposal and we made ours before the Interior Ministry and the revolutionary government and they answered with the release of these Miskito companeros.

[Announcer] Were the Baptist and Moravian churches represented here by Reverend (Gilberto Aguirre) and Bishop (John Wilson) involved in this release?

[Ulloa] I believe that at this time I should stress the Evangelical Committe for Aid to Development's role in the defense and protection of human rights on the Atlantic coast. Today's event is the result of the efforts of a religious organization that includes 42 different churches. Its participation as a religious organization, together with the CNPPDH, is important.

[Announcer] Thank you, Sixto Ulloa, for your statement as CNPPDH member. We will interview Companera Zulema Baltodano, another CNPPDH member. Good afternoon, Companera Baltodano. Have you a message for the Nicaraguan people regarding this event?

[Baltodano] We are here because the penal system will turn over a number of Miskito prisoners. This shows the sound policy of our penal system and the work we have done to benefit the Miskito people.

[Announcer] Are all the prisoners men, or are there some women?

[Baltodano] There are some Miskito women, who I believe will get a very good impression of our revolution and who will be very pleased to be back with their families on the Atlantic coast.

[Announcer] Have you a message for the Miskito communities in Zelaya?

[Baltodano] We tell them that this is an example of our regime's open policy and we ask that they work for the Sandinist peoples revolution. This is the revolution of their children.

CPPDH Member Scores 'Aggression'

PA030350 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 2228 GMT 2 Aug 83

[Speech by unidentified member of the National Commission for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, at a ceremony receiving a group of Miskito Indian prisoners, held at the Cesar Augusto Silva Convention Center in Managua -- live]

[Excerpt] We want to thank Commander Tomas Borge and the government for heeding the requests and contacts of the national commission and releasing these brothers. The commission will continue with this work, as we announced. We will present requests to the State Council for the release of 12 Miskito women prisoners. We are sure that they will be released soon as well. We will also continue working for all our brothers.

The national commission is concerned with human rights in this country. A number of cases are being handled. We are also dealing with the arrested Miskitos, Somozist prisoners, to achieve their progressive release. Many have been released already.

I can assure you that if Nicaragua were not suffering aggression at present, more prisoners would have been released. What actually prevents the release of some prisoners is the danger of aggression prevailing in Nicaragua. As a member of the National Commission for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights [CPPDH], I want to tell you that these brothers are victims of this aggression. And we cannot fully develop our series of projects due to the aggression that prevails in Nicaragua. The problem of these Miskito brothers and other prisoners might have been solved already were it not for this emergency and aggression.

Tomas Borge Speech

PA030240 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 2148 GMT 2 Aug 83

[Speech by Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge at a ceremony releasing a group of Miskito Indian prisoners to the National Commission for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, held at the Cesar Augusto Silva Convention Center in Managua -- live]

[Excerpts] After the triumph of the revolution, the Sandinist front logically followed Sandino's experience and extended its authority to the Atlantic coast. Four months after the victory, the revolution proclaimed the defense of the rights of the various ethnic groups of the Atlantic coast and urged them to organize and defend their rights. This is when the famous organization known as MISURASATA was born. It means Miskito, Sumu, and Rama Sandinist Unity. It was given official representation in the State Council.

The revolution sent important cadres to the Atlantic coast. They arrived there with a totally pragmatic attitude, although filled with the greatest intentions to try to solve the serious problems that existed there.

The literacy campaign in languages, in English, Miskito, and Sumu, began. At the same time, the languages of the Ramas and the Garifanos [black communities] began to be reconstructed. A total of 12,500 people attained literacy in these languages. In other words, our first policy was the defense and promotion of the language. Our policy was the promotion of education in the native language, the promotion of the music, culture, and traditions of the Indians.

Besides the national literacy campaign, we undertook great efforts in other fields. There has been a 142-percent increase in the number of doctors on the Atlantic coast compared to 1978. There has been a 300-percent increase in the number of nurses and nurses' aides. There has been a 130-percent increase in the number of medical consultations.

In the education sector, there has been a more than 160-percent increase in the number of primary and secondary schools. From a primary and secondary school enrollment of 37,240 in 1978, we have risen to an enrollment of 56,000 in 1981. The illiteracy rate of 75 percent, which was the highest in the country, was reduced to approximately 30 percent. It is even lower in some areas; in northern Zelaya it dropped to approximately 20 percent.

Electric power plants were installed in Puerto Cabezas, Waspam, El Bluff, [name indistinct], Laguna de Perlas, Tasba Pri, La Cruz de Rio Grande, Orinoco, and [name indistinct]. Making a great heroic effort, the companeros of TELCOR [Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services] installed telephone lines and television relay stations that reached the Atlantic coast for the first time.

The number of storage centers was increased by 30 percent -- I mean 30-fold -- in the Atlantic sector. In other words, the quality of attention given to the Atlantic coast by the revolution has greatly increased.

Nevertheless, despite these important achievements, the gap between the Atlantic and the Pacific has yet to close. This is due to our errors. These errors essentially stemmed from the ignorance about the social and cultural reality of the Indian population. We sent our cadres and no one bothered to have them learn and communicate in Miskito or other languages. In the beginning, our cadres were unaware of the cultural characteristics of the Indian population. Many of them did not even have the least idea about the specific living conditions and kinds of family and other relationships of the Miskito population.

On one occasion, there were even attempts to establish a rational use of natural resources. For example, INPESCA [Nicaraguan Institute of Fisheries] banned the catching of turtles in a praiseworthy effort to protect turtles, but it did not consider that the Indians earned a good part of their livelihood from turtles. When a Miskito caught a turtle for food, the companeros would automatically seize the turtle.

Through negligence and lack of experience, in some ways we permitted the deception and swindle of the Miskito population in the matter of trade. There were many unscrupulous merchants who took advantage of the Miskitos' backwardness to obtain huge profits in the purchase of the products from the Miskitos and the sale of products to them, including vital products like salt. To combat this, we developed a marketing network which gave the population access to a number of staples.

In truth, our companeros did not really understand all of this. We did not take into account the cultural characteristics of the Miskito population. Sometimes, the companeros would arrive to vaccinate the Indians against tuberculosis or poliomyelitis without taking into account the Miskito population's cultural characteristics and the need to explain to the Miskitos and the other ethnic groups the value of the vaccination. The enemy's campaign would tell them that the vaccinations were to sterilize or even exterminate the Miskitos and Sumus.

I have said that in the beginning we should have sent companeros with an anthropological background so that they could have understood the nature of the problem. However, this was not all. Within the objective contradictions that occurred there, a large part of the Miskitos were led to assume mistaken positions that caused a conflict, and even led to armed confrontation.

Of course, the main work there was carried out by the Central Intelligence Agency. Subtle campaigns were carried out there, using the MISURASATA organization for separatist projects. Unfortunately for us, the main Miskito leader, Steadman Fagoth, was corrupt. He had an extraordinary influence over the Miskito population. We discovered that he had been a Somozist security agent. Of course, if this had occurred in the Pacific, Steadman Fagoth would have been discredited and executed, but due to the Miskito's ethnic nature, their traditions, customs, and isolation from the rest of the country, such a background was not important, and Steadman Fagoth continued to be respected as a Miskito leader.

But this permitted an increase in the sabotage of revolutionary government projects, and a huge campaign was developed to move the Miskito population into Honduran territory. This was not only to create an international image that the Miskitos were being persecuted in Nicaragua but also to have elements available to join the armed counterrevolutionary activity.

When this confrontation occurred, and owing to the fact that this was an isolated region with little control, a number of abuses -- this has to be said with honesty -- and mistreatment were committed in some cases, even though this was not the general policy. In some cases that have been investigated, crimes were committed against the Miskito population.

In 1982 we dismantled the "Red Christmas" Plan, which consisted of a general uprising of the Miskito population, starting with the seizure of San Carlos and Sandy Bay by counterrevolutionary bands from Honduras. It was planned that the uprising would permit the military intervention of foreign forces which would give their support and recognition to the insurgent forces. This was conceived in accordance with the plans and strategy to provoke the weakening and the eventual defeat of our revolution.

This is why, in line with the fundamental statute of the rights and guarantees of the Nicaraguans, which forces the revolutionary state to protect the lives of its citizens, we decided to transfer the Coco River communities to a safer place, since that zone had virtually become a war zone.

The drama is evidently continuing, because there is a real and objective separation between the families of the Miskitos. The relocated population is in the settlements established by the revolutionary government. We have made great efforts and allocated many resources to establish these settlements for the Miskito population. Many journalists have probably visited Tasba Pri. It can be said that it is an example of what can be done when a political decision is made to benefit a sector of the population.

There is a still more terrible drama. It is that of the thousands of Miskitos who were victims of deceit, of the personal ambitions, and of the maneuvers against our revolution. They have been transferred to Honduras, where they are being held in concentration camps, as we are going to show today. In these places in Honduran territory, the Miskito population is being held against its will in order to prevent its return to Nicaragua.

In the Mocoron concentration camp there are more than 6,000 Miskito prisoners. There are more than 1,500 Miskitos in the Rumalaya concentration camp, which can only be reached by air; there is no access by land. This is how the Miskitos live in Honduras. They are held prisoner in Nazi-style concentration camps. They are being held by force. They are also taken by force to the counterrevolutionary units. They are given a rifle and are involved in armed activities so that, due to their cultural characteristics and their fear of reprisals, they will find themselves in an irreversible situation within the armed counterrevolutionary activity.

There is a great difference between the way the Miskitos are treated in these concentration camps and in the Tasba Pri settlement.

A few thousand Miskitos have returned to Nicaragua. They have been received with open arms, and they can live in absolute freedom. But it really angers us to know that several thousand Nicaraguans are held prisoner in concentration camps in Honduran territory for the purpose of creating the image of repression in the Atlantic coast and to serve us cannon fodder for the counterrevolutionary activity.

Today we will be releasing 43 Miskitos, if I'm not mistaken [someone says 46]...46 Miskitos, as part of a solution to the problem of the Miskitos. In the next few days, at the initiative of the Human Rights Commission, a group of 12 women will be released. Many of these Miskitos, including the women, have committed crimes, some of them serious. Nevertheless, we understand the overall context that has led them to commit these crimes.

Borge Press Conference

PA030400 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 2237 GMT 2 Aug 83

[Press Conference by Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge at a ceremony releasing a group of Miskito Indian prisoners to the National Commission for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (CPPDH), held at the Cesar Augusto Silva Convention Center in Managua -- live]

[Excerpts] [Unidentified reporter] What are the chances for a political solution on the Atlantic coast, including an agreement between the FSLN and the Moravian Church to rescue the MISURASATA members that did not join Steadman Fagoth's counterrevolutionary group? Are there prospects for a political solution and an agreement among the parties in northern Zelaya?

[Borge] We have had a permanent relationship -- which began not too long ago -- with the representatives of the Moravian Church. We have agreed to hold monthly meetings to examine the various specific problems that may arise as we go along. We will do this in coordination with the Evangelical Committee for Aid to Development, CEPAD. These monthly meetings will allow us to follow through with the revolutions' political desire of solving the problems of the Atlantic coast in regard to the conflicts we have had with the Miskito Indians. We have reached this specific agreement.

[Question] Commander, it has been learned that the National Commission for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights has made several requests concerning the release of Miskito Indians and other problems. We would like to know if this commission is autonomous or if it is responsible to the Nicaraguan Government?

[Borge] No, this is a commission that makes its own decisions and initiatives. It can even contradict our views. This takes place frequently, fortunately. It is not an appendage of the Nicaraguan Government. This organization is composed of exceptionally honest men who have their own views and personalities. Fortunately, we have not created a puppet commission, but a commission with its own personality -- and one very demanding of us, in fact.

[Question indistinct]

[Borge] I already said there are 320 Miskitos. We have to substract the 46 Miskitos released today and also the 12 Miskito women almost sure to be released. Therefore, the number of imprisoned Miskitos is some 200. The sentences for these Miskitos vary; some are for 30 years. However, it is expected that most of the Miskitos will be in an open farm system where they will virtually move around at will. Likewise, we have planned that those with long-term sentences will be allowed to live with their own families, which will be free to move around.

CDS STAGES 'MASSIVE' MOBILIZATIONS, DEMONSTRATIONS

PA031908 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Text] In view of the presence of U.S. warships in Central American waters, the Sandinist Defense Committees [CDS] of Managua have been organizing massive mobilizations in various neighborhoods to repudiate these maneuvers.

The demonstrations, which will be staged from now until 12 August, are a sign of strength and a warning to imperialism, informing it of what to expect if it dares to invade our country. In this activity, CDS members take to the streets carrying placards, blowing whistles, and carrying machetes, clubs, and anything that could be used to fight imperialism.

With a firm commitment to strengthening defense levels, the CDS of Managua Department held a monthly meeting to greet the fifth anniversary of its founding. During the meeting, CDS members vowed to recruit most of the population for the territorial militias and promised to reinforce the reserve battalions to be ready to fight and defeat Reagan's aggression.

The meeting was presided over by guerrilla commander Leticia Herrera, Sandinist assembly member and CDS secretary general; Companero Elias Chavez; and the members of the Managua CDS Executive Committee.

ARTICLES 18, 19 OF PARTIES LAW APPROVED

PA290410 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Jul 83

[Text] The State Council yesterday approved Articles 18 and 19 of the Political Parties Law. During the session, Social Christian Party delegate Julio Ramon Garcia tried to confront the government junta and the supreme court.

Garcia's antinational attitude was so strong that he demanded that Article 19 be removed from discussion, as it establishes that anyone who wishes to organize a party must receive authorization from the political parties' national council.

The Social Christian representative, wanting to ignore the U.S. Government's plans to invade Nicaragua, said that Article 19, which also states that those who wish to carry out electoral and organizational activities will have 90 days to do so, has not been changed in the last year.

Finally, the plenum approved a motion by Dr Mariano Fiallos Oyanguren to the effect that the decision not to authorize a party may be appealed, and that a request for revision may be submitted to the supreme court of justice.

Deputy commander Rafael Solis, State Council secretary, offered a detailed explanation at the meeting on the need to regulate the creation of parties in the country and to prevent people from creating a party without proper regulation.

ARREST OF RADIO UNION LEADER PROTESTED

PA282138 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1459 GMT 27 Jul 83

[Text] Managua, 27 Jul (ACAN-EFE) -- The opposition Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board [CDN] today sent the government a telegram protesting the arrest of Jose Miranda Wilford, president of the Radio Workers Union [Sindicato de Trabajadores de Radio -- SITRA]. The labor leader was arrested by the authorities at his home in Managua on 18 July, according to DCN sources.

Miranda Wilford is a longtime employee of Radio Corporacion, which is now a mixed capital enterprise. The shares once held by Fabio Gadea, who is living in Costa Rica, are now owned by the state. Gadea is a member of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance and left the country more than 18 months ago.

The telegram, sent to Interior Minister Commander Tomas Borge, says that the CDN demands the release of Miranda Wilford, since "actions like this only render the sad situation that Nicaraguan journalism is experiencing even worse."

CDN spokesmen said that although Miranda Wilford was arrested 10 days ago, no formal charges have yet been filed.

FDN LEADER SAYS U.S. PLANS TO INVADE NICARAGUA

PA300205 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2007 GMT 29 Jul 83

[By Linda Brucker]

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa, 29 Jul (LATIN-REUTER) -- A leader of the rebels who are fighting the Sandinist government with Washington support today said that the United States plans to invade Nicaragua, and he described regional peace talks as "a mere ritual." In an interview with REUTER, Edgar Chamorro predicted that the United States would launch a military attack on Nicaragua, either at the request of a multilateral organization or a Central American government.

Chamorro is the most prominent member of the seven-man directorate of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN), the largest group of rightist rebel forces, estimated to contain at least 7,000 men.

Their operations from bases in Honduras have brought Nicaragua and Honduras to the verge of war and have triggered several urgent efforts to secure peace, including a meeting of nine Latin American foreign ministers that began yesterday in the Panamanian capital.

Chamorro described the Panama meeting as a smokescreen, adding: "They must first utilize diplomacy. It is like washing your hands before dinner; a mere ritual."

Chamorro compared the current situation in Central America with the U.S. intervention in the Dominican Republic in 1965, concluding that Washington now plans similar action. "The writing is on the wall," Chamorro said. "Either the Sandinists negotiate now, or the United States will take military action," he added.

"The United States has said that, as long as there is no solution to the Nicaraguan problem, there will be no political stability in Central America. In practical terms, this means that the Sandinists must go," Chamorro indicated.

The U.S. support for the FDN led to a heated debate in the United States, where the House of Representatives approved an amendment last night ordering President Reagan to suspend covert assistance to the rebels.

Chamorro said that he did not think that the vote would affect U.S. support for the rebels, given that the Senate, which is controlled by Reagan's supporters, would probably not approve the bill, which requires similar action by the Senate and presidential approval before it can become a law.

The rebel leader's prediction of direct U.S. intervention in Nicaragua came amid doubts about the rebel's ability to combat the well-trained and well-armed Sandinist army.

In February, when approximately 2,000 rebels entered Nicaragua and attacked deep inside the country, rebel leaders, including Chamorro, predicted a general insurrection that would defeat the Sandinists "within 60 days." Now, Chamorro revealed a much less optimistic viewpoint, admitting that the rebels have failed to mount any spectacular operations.

"We have done nothing spectacular, like occupying Jalapa or Ocotal (in northern Nicaragua)," he said. "Our operations are costly. In addition, the Sandinists have responded to our offensive with massive force. In Ocotal, we had 200 men, while they sent in 1,500," he added.

Officials in Nicaragua have said that they fear large-scale attacks precisely because to date the rebels have had so little success.

Chamorro said that he would consider returning to private life in Miami -- where he lives with his family and where the FDN was created -- unless the rebellion yields results soon. "It is like being a journalist. If his work is not published after 3 months, after 6 months, or never, then he must start looking elsewhere."

Chamorro estimated that the FDN's casualties since September have been 170 dead and 350 wounded. Julio Ramos, chief of Nicaraguan Army Intelligence, said on 15 July that the rebels had suffered 1,368 casualties -- 984 dead and 296 wounded [figures as received] -- from the start of the year to 12 July, while the Sandinists have estimated their own casualties at 600 for the first 6 months of the year.

UDN-FARN STATES POSITION ON FSLN PEACE PROPOSAL

PA011845 San Jose LA PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 26 Jul 83 p 3

[Communique published as a paid advertisement by the Nicaraguan Democratic Union and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Nicaragua; date not given]

[Text] The Nicaraguan Democratic Union and its military arm, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Nicaragua (UDN-FARN), hereby fulfill their duty to state, before the international public, their view of the peace proposal presented by the communist FSLN regime on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of its seizure of power.

1. Our organization categorically rejects this gross maneuver by Sandino-communism and warns the governments that are sincerely searching for peace in Central America not to fall into the webs being spun by both Havana and Moscow, and to surmount the crisis currently involving the traitors to our revolution.

2. The proposal announced by Government Junta Coordinator Daniel Ortega Saavedra is conceived in terms that favor only the Managua regime. In this way, the FSLN seeks to ensure its retention of power by offering nonaggression pacts in exchange for guarantees of stability from the area's countries.

3. The petty tyrants in the FSLN National Directorate never speak of opening a path toward the country's democratization, the initial step for which would be to abandon their criminal repression of the Nicaraguan people.

4. When the commanders propose the departure of all foreign advisers currently in Central America, they cannot be doing so sincerely, because any decision to be made on the Soviet, Bulgarian, Libyan, German, Chilean, Cuban, and other mercenaries would not be made by them, but by their international communist masters, who will never leave Nicaragua peacefully after having conquered a beachhead for their expansionist plans by force.

5. Neither can they be sincere when they speak of not using one country as a base from which to attack another, or when they call for the adoption of measures with which to check the support given the armed groups that are trying to overthrow governments in the area, because they are solely responsible for disrupting Central America with their support for the communist guerrillas and their encouragement of other criminal minority groups that are attempting to lead traditionally democratic and peaceful nations into political destabilization and terrorism.

6. The UDN-FARN condemn any attempt to negotiate peace in Central America without considering the Calvary that our people are suffering, for there can be no real peace as long as 2.5 million Nicaraguans live under the yoke of communist totalitarianism.

7. To negotiate peace with communism is to grant it a truce, allowing it to become more firmly ensconced in Central America, for never in history has the communist system fulfilled either pacts or treaties that guarantee international harmony. It has only made use of the naivete of rulers and other world leaders to reinstate its strategy and to advance in its plans for conquest.

8. Our organization is aware of the fact that only through armed struggle and the patriotic unity of all Nicaraguans will we be able to achieve our liberation of Central America from the threat of atheist communism.

God, homeland, freedom.

Fernando El Negro Chamorro, UDN-FARN commander in chief

Information and Press Secretariat Responsible signature: Henry Mendoza Passport No 24183320

CASTRO 28 JULY NEWS CONFERENCE WITH U.S. NEWSMEN

FL031157 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0034 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Press conference granted by President Fidel Castro to a group of U.S. journalists during a reception hosted by the Cuban Government on 28 July for visiting foreign delegations -- recorded -- Castro speaking in Spanish with consecutive English translation; translator occasionally blocks out Castro's words]

[Text] [Castro] Where are the North Americans? [sentence indistinct] There were several [words indistinct], not an interview.

[Unidentified Spanish-speaking journalist] A talk?

[Castro] I did not promise an interview, (?but a) talk.

[Unidentified Spanish-speaking journalist] You speak to the North American people and tell them what you think are the most important things. (?We won't) say anything. A message for [words indistinct].

[Castro] If I have to say something to the American people -- I imagine that they have received diverse reports, (?including) unfavorable ones, about our country -- I may say that our feelings toward the American people, despite the problems that we have had with the U.S. Governments, are those of respect and admiration. Actually, I make a distinction between the American people and their governments. These are my feelings about the American people. I wish that I could express myself in English so that I could say it in English. [words indistinct] the American people have a great independent spirit, they are a people who have made a great contribution to [words indistinct], and I sincerely wish that someday [words indistinct] to expand the contacts with the American people. We are neighbors and we are forced to be friends. Whatever the system, there is a socialist system on one side and a capitalist system on the other. But I think that the Latin American peoples and the American people all have to live on the same continent under conditions of equality, respect, and friendship.

[Unidentified Spanish-speaking journalist] Can you tell us anything about the mistakes of the Reagan administration to the extent that it is trying to change the image of Cuba? Can you tell the American people the true moderate message, which I believe was in the speech which you gave.... [sentence unfinished]

[Castro] I spoke to you a little while ago when the cameras were not here. And I was saying that Reagan's press conference had been more cautious and more moderate. In that sense, I consider it to be positive, although in substance he has not changed. There are all the measures taken in regard to the military exercises in Latin America. I was saying that if we were enemies of the United States, we would wish for a conflict to come about between Latin Americans and the Americans. But we do not want that to happen because it would be costly for the Latin American peoples and costly for the American people and would create great resentment between the Latin American and American people. I believe that we should struggle to prevent such a conflict from taking place. And in a certain way, because of our position, as I was joking with the journalists earlier, saying that as we try to prevent U.S. intervention in Central America from taking place, we are helping Reagan. Because I really believe that it would be a very serious mistake which would definitely divide the United States from the Latin American peoples for a very long time. I understand that there is a Latin American consciousness which did not exist 30 years ago. The Malvinas war demonstrated that.

I was telling the journalists earlier that the Americans generally tended to side with Great Britain. And Latin Americans, despite their political differences with the Argentine Government, tended to side with the Latin American cause, the cause of the Falkland Islands. And that shows that there is a Latin American feeling which must be taken into account.

You were asking whether I held any hope for the settlement of the problems. And I said that I was convinced, but could not talk about hopes because I do not have the assurance that the same attitude exists on the part of the U.S. Administration or that the U.S. Administration would want to find a negotiated political settlement to the Central American problems.

[Unidentified Spanish-speaking journalist] Would you be willing to hold direct talks with Ronald Reagan in some sort of conference?

[Castro] I was asked that question once and I responded then that I had no objections to meeting with the U.S. President. Then later I read reports claiming that I had proposed a meeting with the American President. I am not proposing it. But if some day such a prospect should be raised, we would not be opposed to it.

[Unidentified English-speaking journalist] Mr President, what are the first steps which Cuba and the United States could take to bring about a peaceful solution to the problems of Latin America?

[Castro] That is a very difficult question. I would not be able to answer that question with a couple of words. [Castro to translator:] Is he referring to relations between Latin America and the United States?

[Translator] Do you mean relations between Latin America and the United States?

[Journalist] No; what are the first steps Cuba and the United States could take to bring about a peaceful solution to the problems of Latin America?

[Castro] Is it clear that he asking about Latin America?

[Journalist] And Central America.

[Translator to Castro] And Central America, specifically Central America. What steps could Cuba and the United States take to try to bring about a peaceful settlement to the problems in Central America?

[Castro] I believe that first there must be a willingness to reach such a settlement. For our part, that willingness exists. I believe that a solution to the problems in Central America cannot be achieved by one party imposing conditions on the other. I think it would have to be a solution based on the principles of equality and honor. I believe that, for instance, a negotiated political settlement could not be achieved if a negotiated political settlement cannot be achieved in El Salvador. That is a key point. I believe that a solution cannot be achieved by sacrificing someone. Everyone's interests must be considered. The interests of the Salvadorans and of the Salvadoran revolutionary movement cannot be ignored or neglected.

No one can expect to reach a solution based on ignoring the revolutionary movement in El Salvador. Nicaraguan interests cannot be ignored and, in general, the interests of the countries in the region cannot be ignored.

I believe it is possible to reach a political solution. This has been expressed by the Nicaraguans seriously and sincerely. The Salvadorans have also expressed this. It would be necessary to discuss it with them. No one can impose a solution on them. No one can impose elections on them in which they do not believe. They cannot believe in elections in a country where elections have been rigged for 50 years. How can anyone ask the Salvadoran revolutionaries to believe in elections where the guarantees for such elections are an Army and a government that have murdered over 40,000 Salvadorans?

I believe it would be essential for them to sit down, have discussions, come to agreements, and set up guarantees for [word indistinct] in El Salvador. I believe the United States can have an influence in this. If the United States opposes negotiations, there will be no negotiations. If the United States supports the idea of negotiations, I am certain that the Salvadoran Government and the Salvadoran Army would talk with the Salvadoran revolutionaries. And that is essential if solutions are to be found for the Central American problem.

I agree with the statement of the Contadora Group in the sense that a political solution ought to be found based on respect for the sovereignty of countries and nonintervention in the internal affairs of other countries. This requires that each country be able to install the political system it prefers. If it wants to be capitalist, it can be capitalist. If it wants to be socialist, it can be socialist. If it wants to have a mixed system, then it should have a mixed system if that is possible. I believe that the principle of self-determination is essential. And the principle of nonintervention is essential. I believe that we can all abide by that principle. I mean that the United States and all the countries of the region would be able to abide by that principle. In my opinion, there are possibilities for finding solutions. But it is essential that a settlement be reached in El Salvador. If this can be achieved, I believe that the path would be open to a negotiated political settlement requiring concessions from all parties involved. And it would prevent serious complications and above all it would prevent the intervention of the United States, an intervention which would not be beneficial to Latin America or the United States.

[Unidentified journalist] What type of concessions would Cuba be willing to make?

[Castro] Well, in the first place, we must not make unilateral decisions on that. There has been talk about the advisers. We cannot unilaterally say that we have advisers. It would not be honorable for us to make unilateral concessions, to give you an example. However, if any solution implies the withdrawwl of all the advisers, we would support (?such a solution). However, we should not be the ones to decide this. This should not be decided by the country that makes a contribution or engages in cooperation. It must be decided by the country that receives it. It must receive this as a basis, on principle, on equal conditions. If the demand is made that the advisers be withdrawn and the United States maintains its advisers, then it would not be on an equal basis. Therefore, we cannot make the concession. The ones who can discuss this are the Nicaraguans. That is, if they reach an agreement with the United States on the basis of the withdrawal of all advisers from Central America, we would support that, to give you an example. However, we cannot make a decision (?and we should not make a decision). We are not directly involved. I believe that the decisions and concessions would have to be made by those directly involved. I give you this example. If they make a decision on this issue or any other issue, we will support it. If the principle is accepted that no one will interfere in the internal affairs and the United States accepts the principle, we will accept it and apply it faithfully and firmly.

That is what I mean when I speak about mutual concessions. The United States cannot interfere in the internal affairs of Central America. We recognize that we cannot interfere either. However, our situation is different because we are not directly involved. We cooperate with [words indistinct] Nicaraguans and are in solidarity with the Salvadoran revolutionaries. It is not up to us to make this decision with respect to Nicaragua. We would sincerely support solutions and would be prepared to assume our commitments.

[Unidentified journalist] The U.S. Government has said that, in the last several weeks, the Cuban military presence in Nicaragua has increased and that this is part of the reason for the maneuvers in the Caribbean. What do you think about this?

[Castro] That is absolutely false. Thise is a typical example of how false information is handled. We have cooperation, we have advisers in Nicaragua, but it has been said that we have 3,000 or 4,000. Someone said recently that we had 7,000. We do not have thousands of advisers in Nicaragua. We have approximately 200 advisers in Nicaragua, if you want to know the figure: 200. But they are not really advisers. They are academy and military school professors. They are not advisers. The group of advisers is minimal, a few dozen. However, a professor of a military academy is considered an adviser.

The number of advisers that we have in Nicaragua is one tenth of what has constantly been claimed. They number approximately 200. It has been said that they number 2,000 or 3,000. We do have a few more than 2,000 teachers, of whom 50 percent are women, and we have 500 doctors in Nicaragua. We also have construction workers who are helping with the construction of a sugar mill and various other projects -- highways, hospitals -- in Nicaragua. That is, we do have several thousand, approximately 4,000 Cubans, including the 500 doctors and several hundred additional health technicians, but the total number of military personnel is approximately 200.

[Unidentified journalist] Commander, a question: Concessions, commitments. What is it that Cuba can now say to the U.S. Government and the world that it can give in the form of commitments or concessions to the Reagan administration in the search for peace.

[Castro] Well, I ... it is not a matter of concessions. It is a question of finding an agreement that entails commitments for all parties. In this sense, we are sincerely prepared to assume these commitments. We cannot dictate a formula for these commitments. I believe that those who can or must define the ways to find an agreement are those who are directly involved in the conflicts. We would support this formula. If the principle calls for no one to interfere in the internal affaris, if a policy is accepted in which everyone aggrees in one way or another to support the revolutionaries as well as those who are oppressing the country -- are oppressing -- we would be prepared to accept this formula. If the withdrawal of advisers is agreed to, we will accept this. We must not decide. It is not up to us to decide. This must be decided by the countries involved. If it is agreed that no one will send arms, we would be prepared not to send arms to Central America. Simply stated, we would be willing to accept a commitment of this kind. In this sense, this is what I call mutual concessions, if we could change the terms, that is, and make an honorable agreement in which both parties assume similar commitments.

[Unidentified journalist] Could Cuba act as intermediary in negotiations with the Salvadoran guerrillas?

[Castro] We are not the leaders of the Salvadoran guerrillas. We have friendships. We have relations with them. We have a very high regard for them. But they are absolutely independent and autonomous in their decisions.

[Unidentified journalist] Cuba's influence is truly great. If Cuba decided to moderate, could this be a channel for peace?

[Castro] Cuba cannot restrain anyone. It does have friendship. It can have influence. However, it must not exercise it to exert pressure. What we can do is to support any decision that is taken in the search for a solution, but we cannot exert pressure.

Well, this has turned into a news conference. However, basically, if you want to know our serious position, we are willing to assume commitments similar to those assumed by all the other countries -- including the United States -- to find a solution, and we are seriously willing to support a solution, because the alternative to a solution is the worsening of the conflicts and the intervention of the United States. This is not in the interest of the Central American peoples. It is not in the interest of the Latin American people, it is not in the interest of Cuba, and it is not in the interest of the United States.

If you ask me whether there is any possibility [for a solution], I do believe there is a possibility. But we must find an honorable formula that does not entail unilateral commitments, but one that implies multilateral commitments. We would be willing to support an agreement of this kind.

[Unidentified journalist] Do you believe that the Contadora solution is the best solution?

[Castro] I believe that is one form and that it is very important. I believe that the Contadora group is playing an active and constructive role.

[Unidentified journalist] If there were something that the United States could do to improve the situation over the short term, what would that be?

[Castro] It should define itself. The United States has opposed a negotiated solution; it has systematically opposed a negotiated solution. [Passage indistinct] If the United States were willing to find a negotiated political solution, then I am sure that a negotiated political solution could be achieved. For the time being, I would say that the United States should support a negotiated solution. I am sure that it could be achieved.

[Unidentified journalist] Commander, can Contadora have any influence in the case of El Salvador?

[Castro] I said there cannot be a negotiated political settlement in El Salvador if there is no negotiated political solution for El Salvador. It is to ask us to forget our Salvadoran friends, to betray them, and at those prices, nobody can make a compromise.

[Unidentified English-speaking journalist] If the United States continues its military tack in Central America, what can the Cuban response be?

[Castro] Cuba is not a power. Cuba cannot commit itself in response to the United States. Cuba cannot anticipate itself and say what it would do. I think that the response would not be a Cuban response, but a Latin American response; it would be a world response actually, if there were an intervention by U.S. forces. Cuba is not in a position to speak as if it were a power. It is not going to try to be on an equal footing with the U.S. forces. But we would try to express our solidarity in all possible ways and means, although we would not be able to think in military terms because we are not a military power.

[Unidentified journalist] Can there be solutions in Central America without there being solutions between the United States and Cuba?

[Castro] These conditions are not being established by Cuba. We have had bad relations for the past 25 years, even before the problems in Central America existed. We cannot come forward now either, as things stand, because we would be immoral and lose our authority within this panorama if we did so. We will not pursue national interests. We would rejoice were a grave conflict to be avoided in Central America and were relations between the United States and Cuba to be improved. To tell the truth, we have lived this way for 25 years. We have lived under U.S. hostility for 25 years. But we can continue to live like this for many more years. This is not an essential matter nor a prerequisite. I believe that if things improve and if a solution is found in Central America, then, indirectly, there would be a reduction of tensions between the United States and Cuba.

[Unidentified journalist] [Question indistinct]

[Castro] I believe that the Sandinists are strong. If Honduras has been harassing Nicaragua, Somozist groups have been training them, supplying them. It has been the tool for supplying the Somozists. The Sandinists have made a very wise decision and a very discreet decision. They have conducted no action against Honduras, and I am absolutely sure that the Nicaraguans will not fall into the trap of making a military response to Honduras. I do not think they will do that. I am fully convinced of that. They have shown serenity despite the attacks. Even though more than 400 Sandinists have died, they have never organized a reprisal. They understand that to respond militarily would mean falling into a trap, a provocation. Their attitude has been defensive. Now then, if Honduras attacked Nicaragua, they would have to face an enthusiastic people defending its own territory and Honduras would be defeated. Nicargua does not need foreign assistance to resist aggression from Honduras. There is no need for Cuba to be involved. If Honduras invades Nicaragua, the Nicaraguan people will swallow the Honduran Army. If the United States invades Nicaragua, that would be different. We could not say that the Nicaraguans would be able to swallow the American Army in a short period of time, but if the United States invades Nicaragua, the Americans will find themselves involved in a people's war, it will find itself fighting against a people -- the Nicaraguan people -- and, in the long run, the United States would lose that struggle.

[Unidentified journalist] Would Cuba intervene directly or would it remain out of the struggle?

[Castro] Well, it has not been decided yet what Cuba would do in such a situation. We would have to wait for the events to come about to make a decision.

[Unidentified journalist] Do you think that a peaceful solution for Central America could be better achieved through direct talks between you and Mr Reagan?

[Castro] I do not believe so. They are not necessary. They are not essential. Cuba is not a fundamental factor. Cuba is not a party to the conflict. On the other hand, the United States is directly involved. I think talks between Reagan and the Nicaraguan leaders would be more important because they can speak on their own behalf. I think a meeting between Reagan and the Salvadoran revolutionaries would be more important because they can speak directly on their own behalf. We cannot speak on behalf of Nicaragua. We cannot speak on behalf of the Salvadorans. So, what are we going to discuss? We can discuss our readiness to cooperate in achieving a solution. And there is no need to meet with Reagan to state it or to work in that direction. If some day the U.S. Administration should consider it useful to help create a climate of detente, we would not oppose that.

But regarding your question, I say it is not necessary. This does not mean that we reject any contact with representatives of the U.S. Government or direct contacts with the U.S. Government.

[Unidentified English-speaking journalist] What kind of signals are you, Mr President, giving to the Nicaraguan leaders right now?

[Castro] I do not need to give them signals. We have many contacts, good relations, considerable trust, and relations based on mutual respect. They are aware that we support their policy of seeking a negotiated political settlement. They know it. And I state it publicly. But signals, I have no signals for them. I can't give them any signals because I am not the manager of the team. I am only a friend, not the leader of the Nicaraguans.

[Unidentified English-speaking journalist] Are you increasing your aid to Nicaragua these days?

[Castro] No. No, we are providing normal aid.

[Unidentified English-speaking journalist] There were reports in THE WALL STREET JOURNAL that Cuban ships had arrived recently with armored personnel carriers and that the top Cuban general who had commanded forces in Angola had gone to Nicaragua.

[Castro] No, No, he was not in Angola. No. There is one of our officers there. A very competent man who was in Ethiopia. We have many competent officers and we want our cooperation to be of high quality. If we see that they are being attacked heavily and continually and we see that they could use some help in that field, we would try to send comrades who are capable. We cannot send someone who lacks experience. We send someone who is capable, but we have many men who are capable. It has also been said that -- I believe it was Reagan who said it -- we had sent thousands of soldiers. We have not sent one soldier to Nicaragua. There are no Cuban troops in Nicaragua. Yes, there are Cuban military advisers. There are some 200 Cuban military advisers and collaborators. Moreover, in my opinion, they are not essential. I believe the Sandinists also have experience in this area. They have experience in people's warfare. They defeated the Somoza government. They have fought for many years. They have been in power for 3 years. They have trained cadres. I do not consider the Cuban advisers to be essential. And if a settlement can be reached which would call for the withdrawal of all advisers, and if the Nicaraguans agree, we would support them 100 percent. In other words, since you asked, if an agreement could be reached among all the sides involved which called for the withdrawal of all advisers, we would be willing to support such a settlement. If an agreement could be reached which would call for an end to supplying all types of weaponry to any state in Central America, we would be willing to agree.

Well then, these are the fundamental issues. The matter of nonintervention, self-determination for each country, no foreign military advisers, no weapons sent. I believe all thse problems can be discussed. And we have absolutely no objections to seeking a settlement on the basis of these principles. The Nicaraguans have explained that they are ready to discuss a settlement on El Salvador based on the premise that neither side would supply armaments. And they said they were willing to discuss any other issues which the Contadora Group raised. We have declared that we support that position. The Nicaraguan declaration means that any subject can be discussed -- whether that subject is arms, advisers, or anything else -- on an equitable and honorable basis and not based on unilateral concessions, if that is possible. And Reagan says that is what concerns him. He talks about a Soviet-Cuban conspiracy in Central America. If those are really the issues which worry the U.S. Administration, I believe that all the issues can be discussed.

And if a settlement can be reached on those conditions, we would support it. But I really do want to warn that, if they attempt to establish a solution based on the betrayal of the Salvadoran revolutionaries, or ignoring the Salvadoran revolutionaries, then there will be no solution. I do want to make myself clear about the fact that a political solution, on whatever basis, must include a negotiated political settlement in El Salvador; otherwise there will be no solution because it would not be an honorable solution for one side -- the friends of Nicaragua and El Salvador. If we are told that we must reach a negotiated solution based on sacrificing Nicaragua, there will be no solution. In short, I believe that any issue can be discussed. But a solution cannot be attained on the basis of sacrificing the Salvadoran revolutionary movement. A negotiated political settlement must be achieved in El Salvador.

[Unidentified journalist] Commander, today what would be the way to move toward a negotiated settlement in El Salvador?

[Castro] I believe that the key to this lies in the readiness of the United States to support a negotiated settlement. If the United States would sincerely support the idea of a negotiated political settlement, I am sure that one would be reached. We are willing to achieve this. I am speaking on my behalf. And according to Nicaraguan statements, they are also willing. I believe that the Nicaraguans are sincere. The key issue is for the United States to really and sincerely support a negotiated political settlement. Later, how everything is to be carried out, all the details and all of that is always very difficult to hammer out, but it can be done.

[Unidentified English-speaking journalist] Must the Salvadoran revolutionaries participate as an equal partner?

[Castro] Well, I believe they are the ones who must respond to that. But I believe that the Salvadoran revolutionaries have every right to doubt the guarantees of a government and armed institutions which have murdered over 40,000 people. It would be absurd to say, "let's go to the polls". Whom are they to trust? Are they to trust the armed institutions which have murdered more than 40,000 people in El Salvador? Therefore, they have to discuss what the real guarantees are going to be before taking part in the electoral process.

[Unidentified journalist] Are you in agreement with holding elections, or does the idea of elections appear absurd to you?

[Castro] It depends on what kind of elections. Because, when Batista was in power and called for elections, saying he would give guarantees, we did not agree and chose armed struggle. But we said that if guarantees were made and if a government were formed that could really guarantee compliance with the law in the election results, we would support elections. At the time of Batista, that was our position. It would be good if there were a government which would really guarantee the elections. But, under Batista, we were not willing to participate in elections.

[Passage indistinct, two journalists speaking at the same time]

[Castro] Well, I don't want to talk about formulas because that is more complicated. For the time being, what they have to do is sit down and talk. I mean the Salvadoran revolutionaries and the Salvadoran Government and the Salvadoran Army. I believe the Army should participate because the Army runs the government in El Salvador. And the Army runs the government in Honduras. If we are going to talk about the civilian government in Honduras, let us be sincere. The civilian government in Honduras is only a facade. The ruler in Honduras is General Alvarez. There is no democratic or civilian government there. In Honduras there is a military government.

[Unidentified journalist] Commander, it seems that, according to you and to the presidents of the Contadora Group, there is danger that the Central American conflict or crisis could degenerate into a world conflict. Specifically, why do you believe that?

[Castro] I would not dare go that far. I have not said that. What happens is that people use certain terms. Well, world peace is being threatened. I believe the peace of the world is being threatened more by the 572 medium-range ballistic missiles in Europe. I would not say that the Central American conflict threatens world peace. I would say that it complicates the world situation, the world climate. However, the Central American issue does threaten to create a serious regional conflict, not due to the intervention of large powers, but simply because, in my judgement, the attempt to wipe out the Nicaraguan revolution and the Salvadoran revolutionary movement by force would spread the conflict throughout Central America. It would be like a cancer that is spread throughout the area. I believe it would create a serious conflict among the peoples of Latin America and the United States. I also believe that U.S. military intervention would not be able to eliminate the resistance of Nicaragua and El Salvador. I am absolutely convinced of this. In the long run, the United States would have to withdraw. Even during the Sandino era it was obliged to withdraw, and times have changed a lot since then.

[Unidentified journalist] In your 30th anniversary speech, you spoke about an invasion and of what would happen in the event of an invasion of Cuba. However, there are other things, bombings and such that could...[interrupted by Castro]

[Castro] We would resist. No problem. We are prepared to resist military blockades. We are prepared to resist attacks and a war of attrition and bombings, and we are prepared for the worst, that is, to resist an invasion of the country. We are even prepared to fight under an occupation of the country. A revolution is one thing and a conventional army is quite another. Traditionally, in Europe, when armies were defeated on the traditional battlefield, all resistance stopped. In Cuba, the resistance was possibly greatest after the conventional battles ended. History has many examples. Napoleon had a powerful army: invincible. He invaded Spain and took over the government, and the Spanish people began their war against Napoleon. In the long run, they defeated Napoleon's army. This means that Europe's most powerful and invincible army was defeated by the Spanish people.

Now, Cuba is a revolutionary country, it has a revolutionary people. They have a different mentality. We did not begin our struggle with an army, but with a handful of men. When we began the struggle against Batista, we had 7 rifles and Batista had 80,000 men under arms. After 25 months we had defeated Batista's army. The United States would have to confront not only our armed forces, our conventional forces; it would have to confront the most powerful thing we have; that is, the people, a popular war against hundreds of thousands of armed men and women, against a whole people. If that time comes, the battleships, the aircraft carriers, the nuclear weapons, and the tanks would all be meaningless.

The United States would surely lose this war, that is, a war against the people, a war against an armed, educated, patriotic people united under a single flag. It would never be able to conquer the country. It could invade it and occupy it at a very high cost, but it would have to face a people's war. We are prepared. I do not believe that we are more courageous than anyone else, but because we have been forced to do so by the very threats of the United States, especially Reagan's threats, we are mentally, organizationally, politically, and militarily prepared for an economic blockade, for bombardments, attacks, wars of attrition, invasion, and occupation of the country. We are prepared for every eventuality. We have no alternative.

I am speaking seriously. I am saying what I believe. The Unites States is unquestionably more powerful than we are. It has more planes, tanks, and ships. However, 5 million U.S. soldiers in Cuba, and I would not like for this ever to happen, would not be able to control the Cuban people. We have confidence in ourselves. We are not thinking about others, but of defending ourselves.

You imposed this press conference, which is somewhat disorganized, but I want to say that I have a high appreciation of U.S. journalists. Every time I read your articles, reports, and dispatches I find that they are sharp, intelligent and brilliant. I can say this. I also believe that there are some Biritsh journalists who are brilliant, some commentaries, there are some. However, I also believe that an evolution has taken place in the U.S. press in the last 25 years. I believe that you are more independent today, that you are more objective now than then. Then you aligned yourselves more behind a watchword when you spoke about the security of your country and patriotic interests. With those arguments you were often deceived. Now I appreciate that. With evolution, you have become more objective. I have high regard for you. I watched Reagan's news conference on the 26th. I noticed that the U.S. journalists were very sharp, independent, and objective. I believe that you can contribute a lot and that the U.S. people can also contribute if we understand that the idea that someone wants to rule the world and to take over the world is an absurdity, a fantasy. The world has so many problems that anyone who wants to take over the world has to be absolutely mad.

If we could forget the myth that someone wants to attack the institutions of the United States, we would reach the conclusion that there are real dangers to peace. There are real dangers for world peace: there is the danger of local conflicts, and I believe that the U.S. press and the U.S. people can play a very important role in preventing a world conflict and in avoiding local conflicts.

I am of the opinion that Reagan has little concern for international opinion. He has shown no proof of being concerned about international opinion. However, I believe that he is very concerned about U.S. public opinion. He pays great attention to it. He tries to change opinion and its direction, as in the case of Central America; he tries to get the people to support him in his Central American policy. He has not achieved this. However, I believe that the U.S. people and press can play a very important role in the present international situation and in the present Central American situation.

[Unidentified journalist] This is a subject that has not been discussed since your speech on the first anniversary of the Sandinist revolution. What is the influence of the Sandinist revolution on the Cuban revolution after 4 years of Sandinist revolution?

[Castro] Well, I meant to say that each revolution makes its own contributions, such as combat experience, for instance. Their type of struggle was different from ours. We developed an army which eventually prevailed over Batista's army. They developed a kind of popular uprising. I believe that is another lesson, their contribution. Their conditions are different. The statements they made on the idea of establishing a mixed economic system appeared to me to be an interesting contribution. It just appeared to me to be a viable idea. Then they are not copying, nor should they copy, the experience of Cuba. They are conducting their own scheme, their own formula. And I believe that enriches the political and revolutionary movement. Then, in the sense of Nicaragua's new experience, we are also learning. And I believe that our experience is also (?enriched). We have very good experience. For instance, there is the struggle against illiteracy. This is a very useful experience for the Nicaraguans. We have experience in the field of public health, and I think that it can be useful to them. I believe that everyone can make some contribution which can benefit all of us.

The United States conducts technological research which may be useful to everyone. There is experience in agriculture which can be useful, also in the fields of health, science, and many fields which should be devoted to the welfare of mankind and not to developing weapons that can destroy mankind. Of course, this principle should apply to everyone, to all countries, to all superpowers, regardless of their social and political ideologies. Are you going to help me get free of you, colleague? [laughs]

[English-speaking journalist] Thank you very much.

[Castro] This has been a very disorganized interview.

[Journalist] A little chat.

[Castro] A little chat, but you are to be blamed for that.

[Laughter] Very well, my pleasure.

MEDIA COMMENT ON CASTRO'S 26 JULY SPEECH CITED

PA030025 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Aug 83

[Text] The latest issue of UNIDAD, the official weekly publication of the Bolivian Communist Party, gives prominence of its front cover to the speech delivered by Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, on 26 July, on the 30th anniversary of the attack on Moncada Barracks.

The Mexican daily, EL DIA, analyzing the 26 July speech by Cuba's top leader in today's edition, states that the main subjects of Fidel Castro's address were Cuba's advances in its less than 25 years of revolution and the red-hot Central American situation. The article places emphasis on the strengthening of Cuban sovereignty and the economic and social advances achieved in the country despite the blockade and aggression by U.S. imperialism.

COMMENTARY PREDICTS U.S. SETBACK IN GUATEMALA

PA020415 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 1 Aug 83

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The U.S. imperialist government has been fanning the flame of war in Central America to curb development of the area's liberation movements and smash the victorious example of the Sandinist revolution in Nicaragua. The Yankee rulers intend to intimidate the peoples of the area with an arrogant display of military might, disregarding the possible consequences their irresponsible policy could have for mankind. The imperialist strategy involves military reinforcement of allies in the area, which are used as the spearhead for aggression against the new Nicaragua and against other Central American revolutionary forces. This is why the Honduran and Guatemalan armies have experienced an increase in the size of their armed forces and the volume of their weapons in the past few years.

Since the coup d'etat of 23 March 1972, [as heard] U.S. intervention in Guatemala has become more obvious. Washington is trying to stop the advance of the people's revolutionary war in Guatemala and turn the military and oligarchic classes of the country into its staunchest allies in its plots against the revolution in Central America.

In the 1960's, Washington used Guatemalan territory as the springboard for its armed attacks against the Cuban revolution and turned the Guatemalan Army into an experimental model for all its counterinsurgent tactics, including special antiguerrilla forces and death squads, as well as the so-called tactic of making politicians disappear. In other words, Yankee intervention in Guatemala is nothing new except for the fact that it is acquiring much higher levels at the present time.

In the economic sector, this intervention has also been most significant. From 1962 to 1979 -- between the Cuban and Nicaraguan revolutions -- the United States invested nearly $1 billion in Guatemala in direct assistance and through credits from international agencies controlled by Washington. In 1974, 31 percent of all U.S. investments in Central America were concentrated in Guatemala. Of 125 transnational corporations present at that time in the country, 77 were included in the group of the 1,000 most powerful, while 31 of them belonged to the so-called giant monopolies of the capitalist world.

Another issue of utmost interest to the United States is the existence in Guatemalan territory of large reserves of oil and nickel, raw materials essential to their industrial and war economies. In addition to this, nearly all traditional Guatemalan imports come from the United States.

When Washington sends important military resources to this Central American nation directly -- or through Israel or Argentina, its biggest accomplices in that arms traffic -- under the pretext of protecting so-called bourgeois democracy, it is actually protecting the growing interests of its monopolies and of the U.S. military-industrial complex. This is why the United States fears increased guerrilla warfare in Guatemala and tries to smash the Salvadoran revolutionary movement; that is, it intends to dissipate, through the force of arms, anything that might constitute a menace to its growing economic and political interests in Central America. Such a criminal policy, however, has already failed in Cuba, Grenada, and Nicaragua, and there is no doubt that it will again meet with failure.

COMMENTARY SEES FMLN VICTORY AS INEVITABLE

PA032145 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 2 Aug 83

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The armed operations of the FMLN in El Salvador are keeping the army on the defensive. The dictatorship's ostentatious counterinsurgency operations are nothing more than futile offensives in which the men in uniform almost never locate the rebel forces and end up returning to their barracks in the main departmental capitals with the sole achievement of having murdered dozens of peasant families, who are later described as guerrillas killed in combat.

This clearly shows the insurgent columns' accurate and efficient actions. These columns operate with assurance throughout the nation and impose the fighting conditions on the enemy. In other words, the guerrilla forces determine the place and time that confrontations with the Army will take place. The soldiers are left with no alternative but to defend themselves, usually while well entrenched in their barracks. They see the dictatorship's garrisons and important strategic forces fall into FMLN hands.

An astute newsman described the guerrilla's operations as being like shots from a precision rifle. He said that the guerrillas almost never fail in their attacks, which are carried out with such speed and effectiveness that they achieve their objectives within a few hours. It is impossible for the demoralized soldiers to defeat contingents that are so seasoned and disciplined.

Guerrilla forces carried out important confrontations in San Vicente, Cuscatlan, Morazan, Santa Ana, and San Salvador Departments last week. One of the most outstanding clashes took place near the town of Tecoluca in San Vicente, where several FMLN columns inflicted 25 casualties and damaged an Army helicopter. During that confrontation, the guerrillas seized 10 rifles and a large quantity of war materiel that were left behind by members of the Cazadores and Simeon Canas Battalions that participated in the clashes.

Radio Farabundo Marti reported that the rebels also destroyed post office buildings and high tension wires near the town of Las Cruces in Santa Ana Department. Other insurgent groups sabotaged the dictatorship's economic objectives in the same area. The source said that FMLN forces control the rural area of San Pablo Tacachico in La Libertad Department located 54 km northeast of San Salvador.

Also last week, FMLN militia squads ambushed a patrol of soldiers and paramilitary personnel on their way to guard the 5 November hydroelectric plant. During the ambush, the Army suffered five casualties and lost rifles and ammunition.

The war situation could not be worse for the Salvadoran regime. Many oligarchic sectors, including ranking armed forces officers, are convinced that given the current situation, they cannot in any way win the war against the FMLN. Their only remaining hope is the massive military aid from the United States, which has been progressively stepped up lately despite the restrictions encountered within the U.S. Congress by the White House war merchants -- that is, President Ronald Reagan and his government team.

That is the sole factor allowing the dictatorship to remain in power. However, in the long run, the United States and the Salvadoran oligarchs and Army will be defeated by the FMLN, which has the peoples' complete support and the solidarity of the world's progressive forces.

CASTRO ATTENDS FLAG PRESENTATION CEREMONY

FL040101 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 4

[Excerpts] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the party Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, presided at the ceremony this afternoon to present the Cuban flag to the sports delegation that will participate in the ninth Pan American Games in Venezuela.

The presentation of the Cuban flag to the athletes who will participate in the Pan American Games in Venezuela from 14 to 29 August was held at the Granma Memorial.

Commander in Chief Fidel Castro presented the Cuban flag to Carlos Galvan Vila, president of the delegation, who in turn gave it to athlete Oscar Periche, member of the water polo team and flag bearer of our delegation. Daniel Nunez, a gold medal winner in the Olympic Games and record setting athlete in weight lifting, read the athletes oath.

RAUL CASTRO ADDRESSES EJT ANNIVERSARY CEREMONY

FL032238 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1802 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Text] FAR Minister Army General Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the party Central Committee, made the closing remarks at the national ceremony commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Youth Labor Army [EJT]. At the ceremony, which took place in Vertientes, Camaguey, Raul recalled the early years of the revolution, when the dearth of workers in that province made it necessary to mobilize thousands of workers from the rest of the country to that territory.

He said that during that decisive battle, there were thousands of cadres of the UJC [Union de Jovenes Communistas] and officers and soldiers of the FAR who had been UJC Pioneers.

The second secretary of the party emphasized that the EJT effort was colossal. He said that the sugarcane cut by this group since its founding was equivalent to all the raw material used in one harvest.

The Youth Labor Army, besides being the most productive labor force in the country, is distinguished by the level of military, political and ideological preparation of its cadres and soldiers, according to Army Gen Raul Castro at the ceremony commemorating the 10th anniversary of that organization.

The second secretary of the party congratulated all the members of EJT for their achievements in these 10 years of successful struggle on all fronts.

He said that in the face of a worsening international political situation and of Yankee threats in Central America, we will continue to strengthen our country's defenses against all kinds of aggression.

Raul declared that no one in our country wanted to have to put these defensive measures into practice, but if the Reagan administration decides to invade our country, we will fight and rid them of their desire to put their noses in military adventures against other countries.

We are prepared to defend at the highest cost the achievements of our marvelous people, as Commander in Chief Fidel has described them, said Army Gen Raul Castro at the ceremony to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the EJT.

The activity took place at the 10th Anniversary Camp in Vertientes with a military ceremony, the awarding of the Lazaro Pena Order to a group of outstanding EJT officers, and the awarding of a millionarire banner to the chief of the Las Tunas Regiment.

In the name of the founders of the Youth Labor Army, Captain Walter Tito Mendez pointed out the dedication and heroism of the combatants who, now and in the past, make up this labor branch of the FAR.

Soldier Emilio Gaiza repeated the pledge to keep the EJT the most productive group in the country during the next harvest.